party
パーティー
Tatsumi Kaiya
June

party
パーティー

Is it possible to have everything you've ever yearned for and not be happy?

Mamoru has confessed his feelings to Natsu, the love of his life. Incredibly, Natsu answers, "I love you too." Their story should end happily ever after, but it doesn't. Wracked with insecurities and a gnawing suspicion that Natsu actually loves Kai, a childhood friend, and not him, Mamoru realizes the true meaning of the old saying, "be careful what you wish for, it might just come true." Add to the mix a group of gossiping friends and life for Mamoru ceases to be one big party.

Witness a story unfold about friendship, dreams and true love within the confines of a school for the arts, here in Party.

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Where girls gather...
&
boys play...

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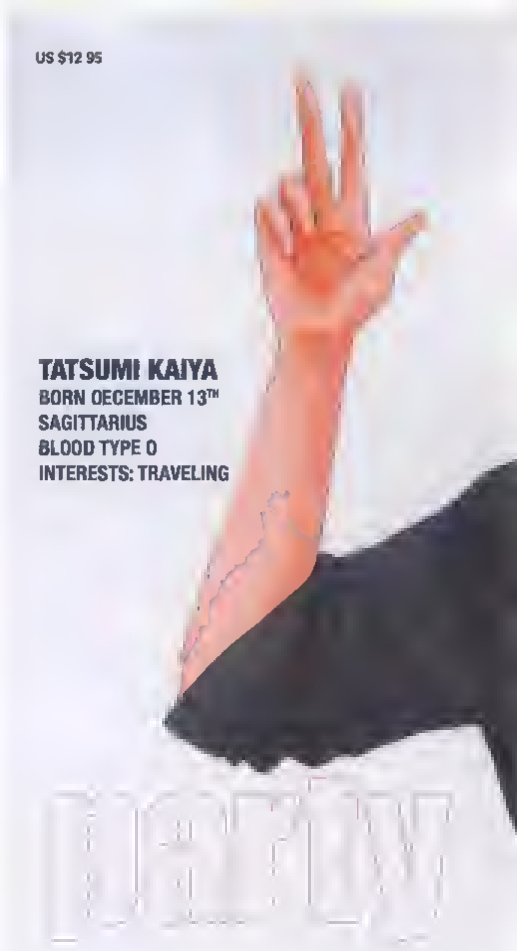

TATSUMI KAIYA
BORN DECEMBER 13TH
SAGITTARIUS
BLOOD TYPE O
INTERESTS: TRAVELING

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WE LIVE OUR LIVES
AS IF EVERY DAY
IS A SATURDAY NIGHT.

NOT FRIDAY.
NOT SUNDAY.
SATURDAY.

AS IF WE HAD
ALL THE TIME
IN THE WORLD.

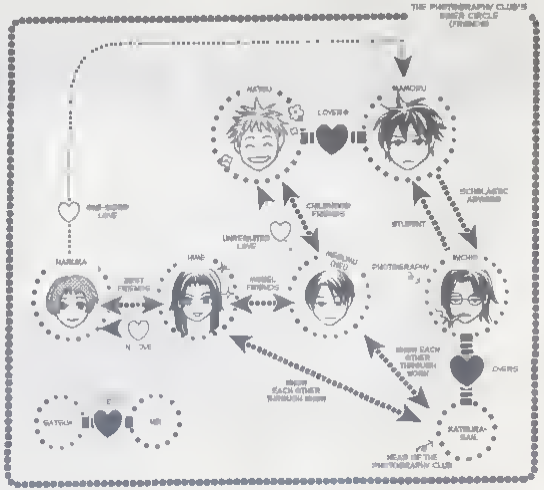
BUT WE DO
WORRY A BIT
ABOUT THE FUTURE.

TWO PEOPLE
ARE BETTER
THAN ONE.

THE MORE,
THE MERRIER.

rty

TATSUMI KAIYA



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[illegible]

I LOVE YOU

TIME
TO START
THE PARTY.

I GUESS SEEING THE PREVIEWS RUINED IT
SOB
RUSTLE
IS IT STRESS? OR FRUSTRATION.
AND I CRY AT ROMANTIC MOVIES
SNIFFLE
LATELY, MY CONCENTRATION HAS BEEN FALTERING
AND THAT'S IT THE MATCH IS OVER
MURMUR
MURMUR
I FEEL VAGUELY UNEASY...
BUT, WHY...?
SURE FEELS LIKE SUMMER
SIGH.
I HAVE GOOSE-BUMPS...
BRRR.
HUH?
MAYBE IT IS A CHILL
KAH
HEY?!
WHY ARE YOU CRYING? ARE YOU SICK?
STARTLE
DO YOU FEEL OKAY?
I'M NOT A LITTLE KID...
IT'S NOT THAT
WHAT?

BARELY A YEAR AGO, IN THE SPRING WHEN I WAS TWENTY, I FELL IN LOVE
IT WAS MY FIRST TIME CONFESSING MY FEELINGS TO ANOTHER GUY.
NATSU
I LOVE YOU
HUH?!
THEN, YOU'LL GO OUT WITH ME?
I THOUGHT I'D GOTTEN MY HAPPY ENDING.
BUT THEN, THINGS PROGRESSED IN AN UNEXPECTED MANNER
YEAH, SURE
DITTO
I LOVE YOU, TOO.

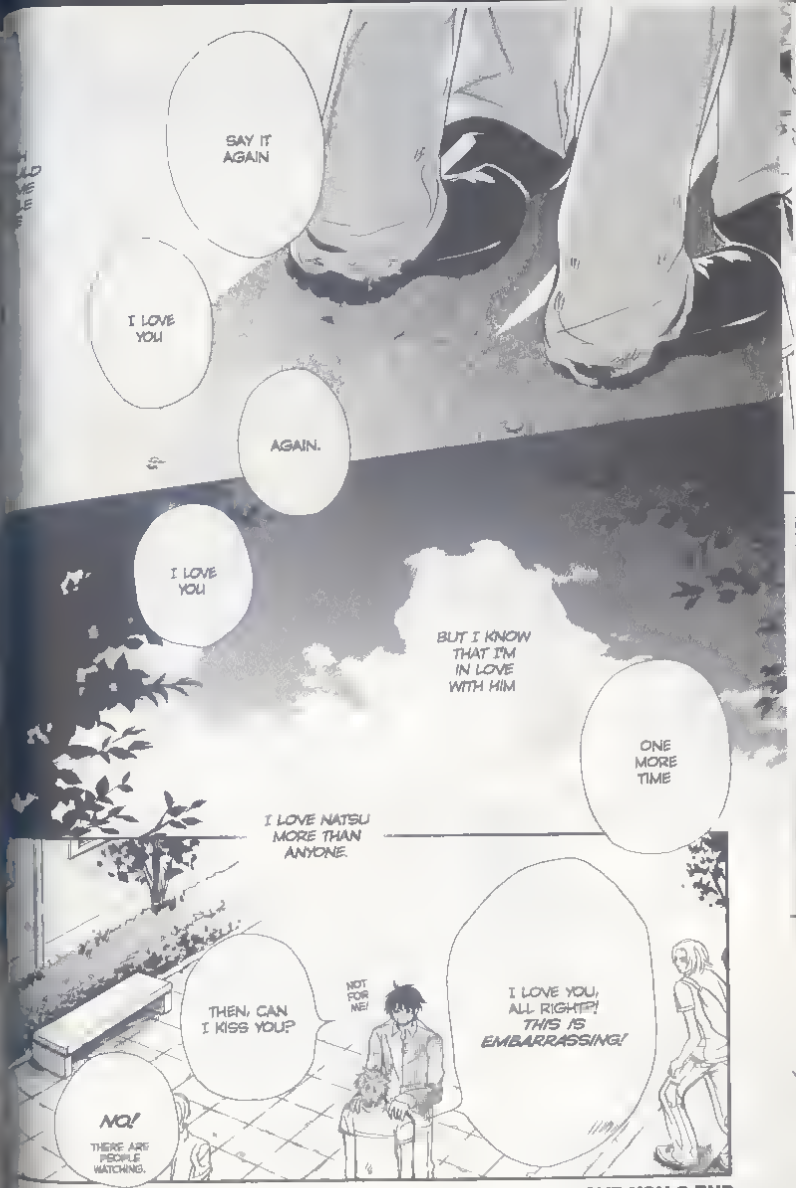
SIGH
PAT
NATSU...
MAYBE YOUR PROJECT CAUSED IT AFTER ALL?
HEE HEE
LIKE A STRESS-RELATED FEVER?
DAMN
HIS SMILE IS SO DAZZLING
HUFF
HUFF

WHOA.
I CAN KICK
UGHH
38.2°C
BEEP BEEP
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP LATELY, BECAUSE OF YOUR SCHOOL PROJECT?
AH
FWOOP
PAT
HERE
GET SOME SLEEP
FUTON'S READY
I JUST WASN'T INTO IT, SO I WAS GOING TO TURN IT IN LATE... UGH, MY HEAD HURTS
UGHH
MY STOMACH TOO!
I'M NOT FINISHED WITH THAT, EITHER
SERIOUSLY?
WASN'T IT DUE BEFORE NOW?
THIS FEVER GOT TO ME PRETTY FAST!

SHOULDN'T HE BE NICER TO ME WHEN I'M SICK...?
HOW'S YOUR FEVER?
UH-OH, STILL HIGH
WANT SOMETHING TO EAT? THERE'S YOGURT
MUTTER.
NATSU YOU'RE BEING AWFULLY NICE...
WELL YEAH
MNN
OH/
ARE YOU AWAKE?
WHAT TIME IS IT...?
IT'S 9.
MY CHEST HURTS SO MUCH
STAY WITH ME...
AT LEAST UNTIL I FALL ASLEEP...?
I FEEL LIKE I COULD DIE
MUTTER
...IF I DIE, WON'T YOU BE SAD...?
GEEZ!
A FEVER THIS WEAK WON'T KILL YOU!
NOW GO TO SLEEP!
YOU'RE SO SPOILED

SHOULD I GO TO CLASS? IT'S REQUIRED...
I CAN'T FLUNK OUT NOW...
OF COURSE, IT WASN'T THAT SERIOUS.
36.1
COMPLETELY NORMAL
BEEP BEEP
HMPH.
HE'S GOT HIS ARM AROUND HIM.
WHO IS THAT?
POPULAR
I'M ONLY NICE TO SICK PEOPLE AND LOVED ONES
I DIDN'T THINK I COULD LOVE SOMEONE THIS MUCH
SHUT.
LET ALONE A GUY...
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN I HOPE THIS SICKNESS IS INCURABLE.
WELL, I HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL
GET SOME REST, OKAY?
...YOU'RE NOT EVEN A STUDENT!

I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU
I KNOW.
I LOVE YOU, TOO
WHY THE SUDDEN DECLARATION?
I MUST STILL BE SICK.
NATSU...!
MY HEART IS POUNDING AND MY EYES CAN'T FOCUS.
JUMP
WAH!
MAMORU!
NATSU?
HUH. ?
ぴと
PAT
HOW'S YOUR FEVER?
AH...


SAY IT AGAIN
I LOVE YOU
AGAIN.
I LOVE YOU
BUT I KNOW THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM
ONE MORE TIME
I LOVE NATSU MORE THAN ANYONE.
THEN, CAN I KISS YOU?
NOT FOR ME!
I LOVE YOU, ALL RIGHT?! THIS IS EMBARRASSING!
NO! THERE ARE PEOPLE WATCHING.

I LOVE YOU ● END

SUMMER NUDE

I WANT TO BE
CLOSER TO HIM
I WANT TO KISS HIM.
I WANT TO HOLD HIM

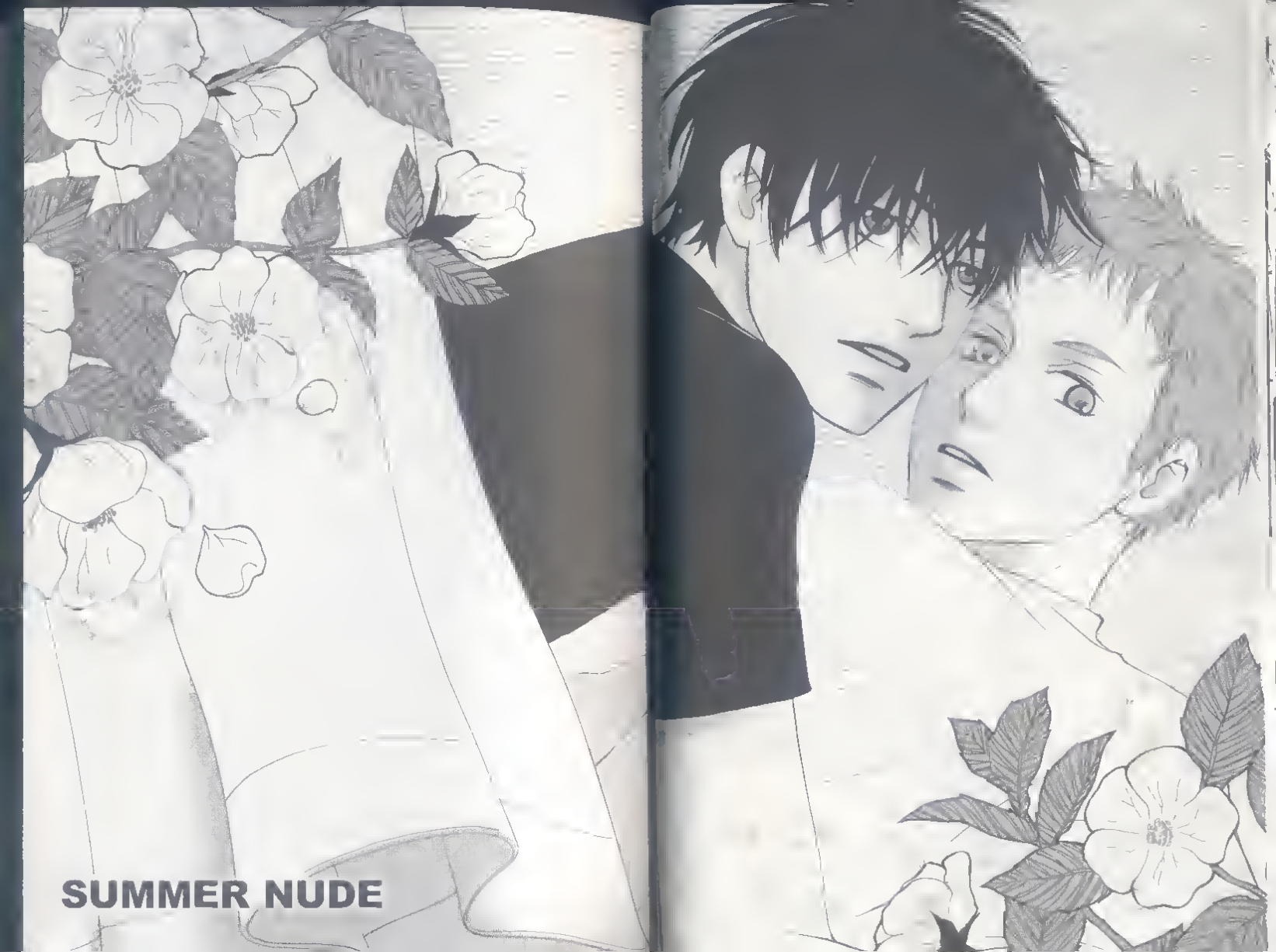
I DON'T WANT
TO EVER LET GO

MAMORU

NAME: MAMORU ISHII
BIRTHDAY: APRIL 8TH
AGE: 21
BLOOD TYPE: B
HEIGHT: 180 CM
THIRD YEAR STUDENT IN ART SCHOOL,
SPECIALIZING IN FILM
DOESN'T GET ALONG WITH HIME
BECAUSE SHE TEASES HIM)

NATSU

- NAME: NATSUKI SUGIURA
- BIRTHDAY: AUGUST 4TH
- AGE: 21
- BLOOD TYPE: O
- HEIGHT: 177 CM
- GRADUATED FROM JUNIOR COLLEGE (WITH A MAJOR IN CRAFT DESIGN AND WOOD WORKS).
- CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED
- CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF MEGUMU (KEI)
- SEEING MAMORU


SUMMER NUDE

ガタン
RATTLE
ACHOO!
ガタン
RATTLE
NATSUP
SNIFF..E
I FELL ASLEE...
UGH
ぼー
STARE
ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU'RE SPACING OUT
...WELL, YOU DID DRINK A LOT

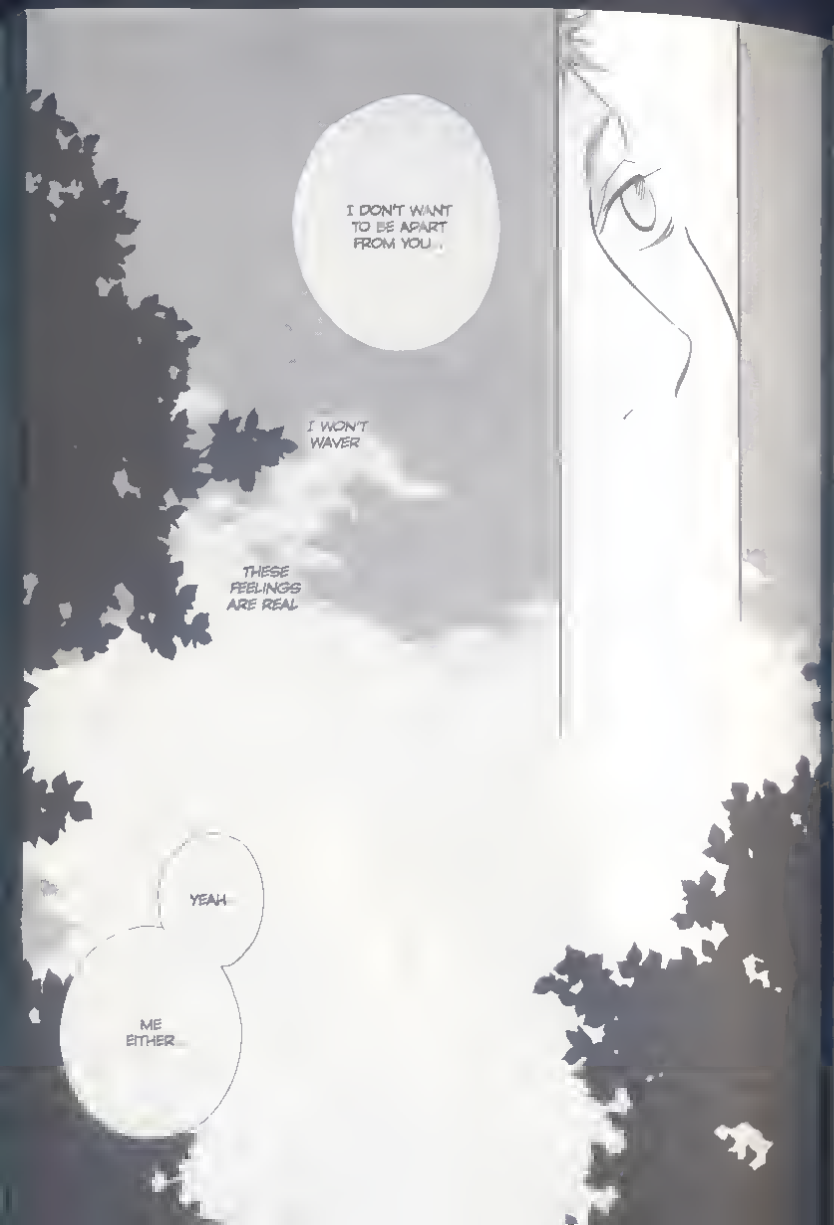
タン
RATTLE
ガタン
RATTLE
ガタ
RATTLE
SNORE
タタ

A CLEAR DAWN. FEVERISH PALMS, AND A LIE THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE TRUTH
I WAS THE ONE CAUGHT UP IN FOOLISH WHIMS
UM... EXCUSE ME..?
CLANG
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
ARE YOU DRUNK, OR JUST EXCITED..?
KOOSH
HIYAH!
TH-THUMP
SQUEEZE
HM?
.. MAMORU ..
YOU WANNA GO SOMEWHERE?

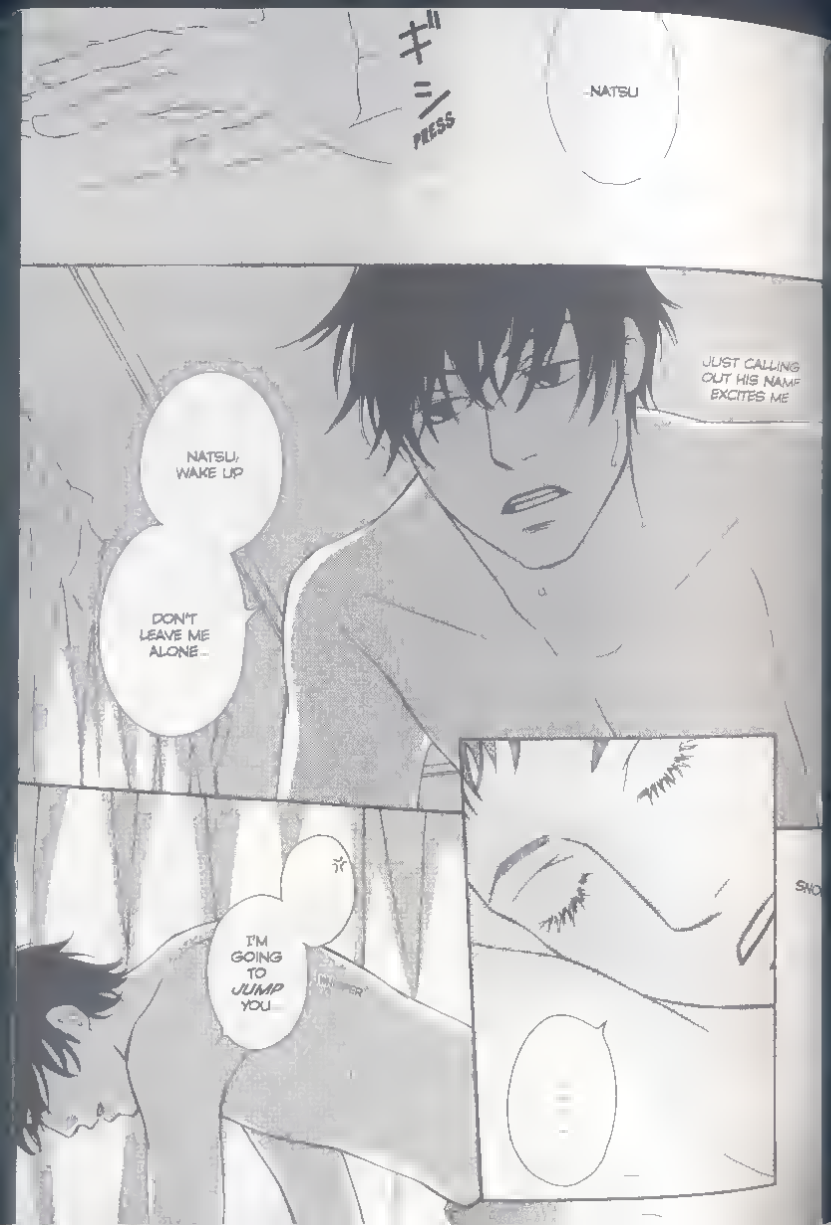
I WANT TO GO HOME AND JUST ROLL AROUND...
WITH THE AIR CONDITIONING ON.
MORE THAN THAT,
I FEEL SO SLUGGISH
SAG
CARRY ME!
COME ON
NO WAY!
TURN
SILENCE...
?
I DON'T WANT TO WALK
MMM.
STRETCH
AHH
MAN.

DRONE
DRONE
DRONE
WELL
THE HUMIDITY DOES SEEM AWFULLY HIGH
IT'S SO THICK...
MY WHOLE BODY FEELS STICKY

FWIP
ぱた
ぱた
FWIP
HMM...
DOESN'T THE AIR FEEL THICK?
I CAN FEEL THE AIR RESISTANCE
HMM...
IS THAT IT?
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?
I DON'T GET IT


I DON'T WANT TO BE APART FROM YOU...
I WON'T WAVER
THESE FEELINGS ARE REAL
YEAH...
ME EITHER...

NATSU.
ぐいっ
TUG
LET'S STAY TOGETHER


PRESS
NATSU
JUST CALLING OUT HIS NAME EXCITES ME
NATSU, WAKE UP
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE...
I'M GOING TO JUMP YOU...

NATSU
THE BATH'S FREE.
SNORE
I THOUGHT IT WAS QUIET
NATSU

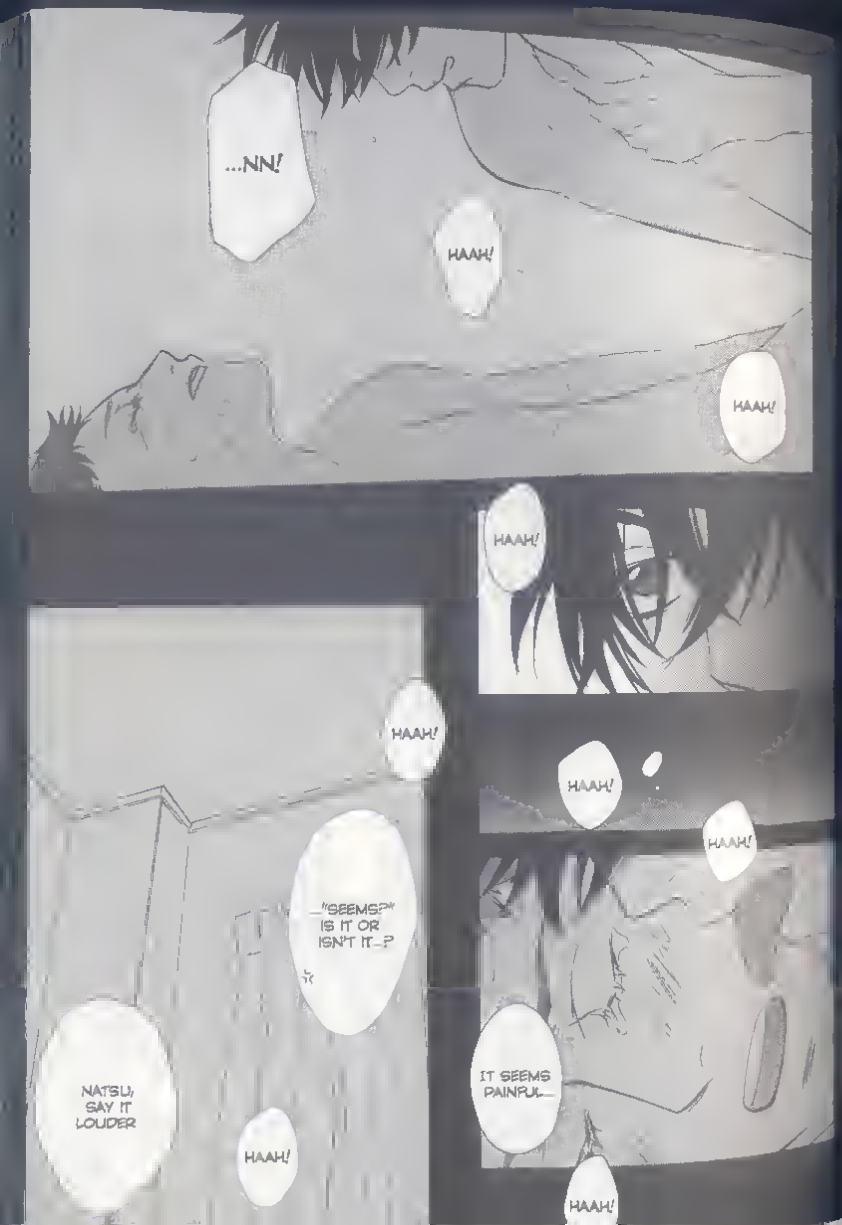
REACH?
AND I WAS SLEEPING REALLY NICELY, TOO.
DON'T PLAY GAMES ON ME
SCRIPE
GEEZ!
WHAT?
MPH.
DRIP
MAMORU?
DRIP

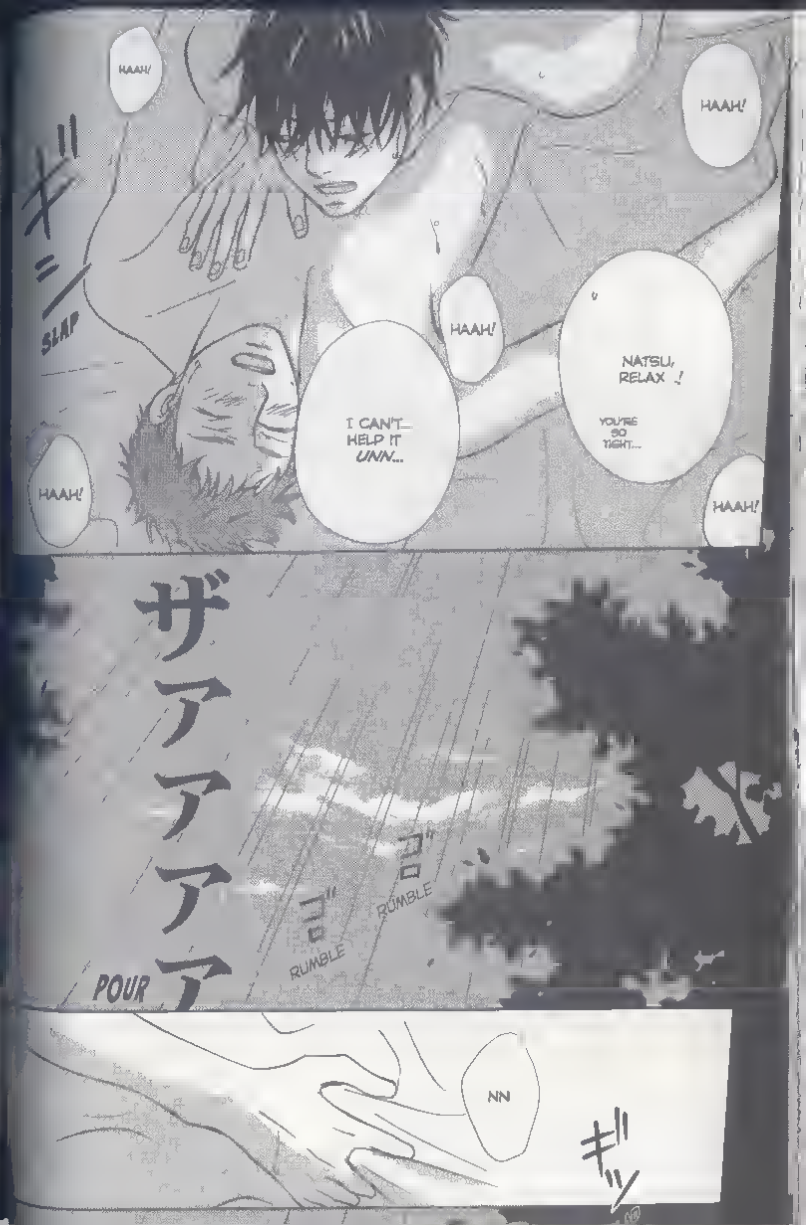
MMM.
HAAH-
MAMORU-
FLINCH

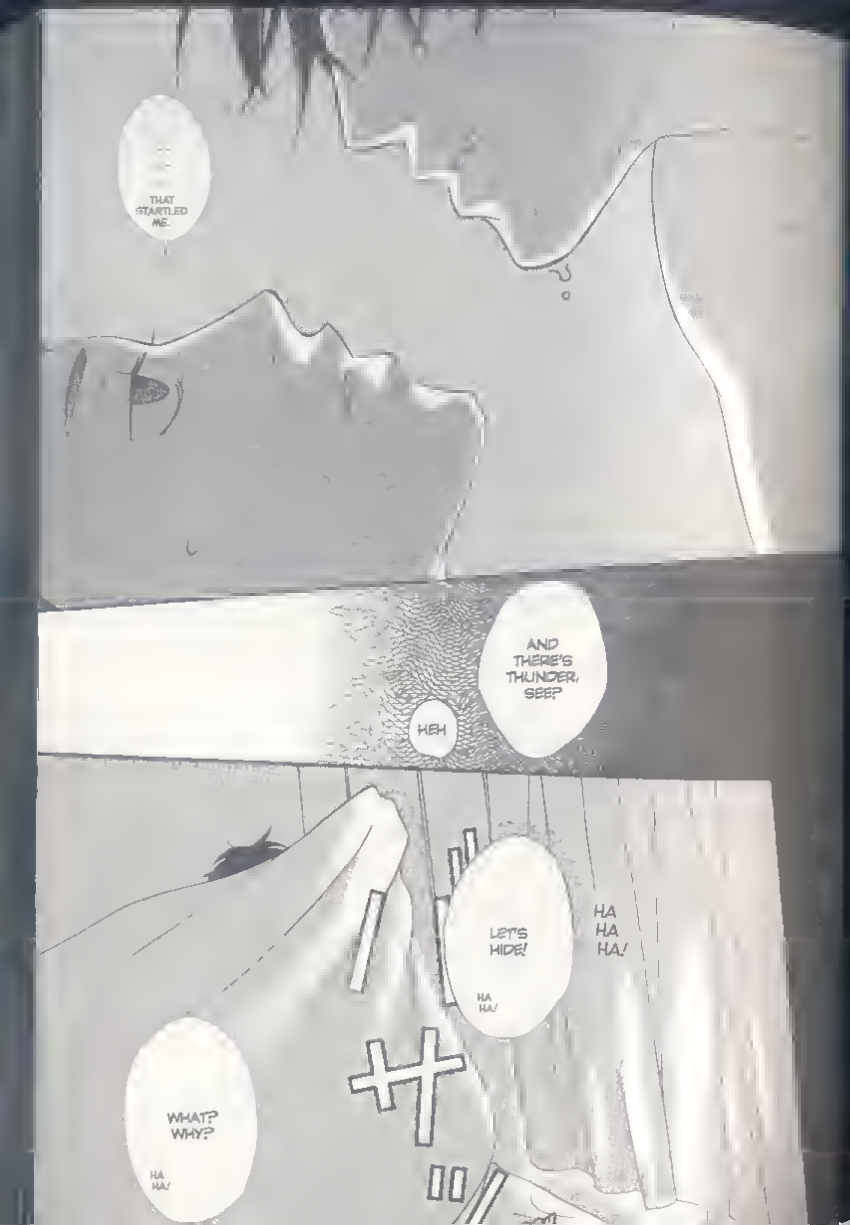
ドキ
TH-THUMP!
HEY WAIT!
OH, BE QUIET
STARE
I CAN'T HEAR YOU
YOU'RE A GUY, YOU CAN'T TURN DOWN SEX!
UM...
I'VE NEVER DONE IT WITH A GUY
ME NEITHER
OH, RIGHT
LICK
KISS
AH
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

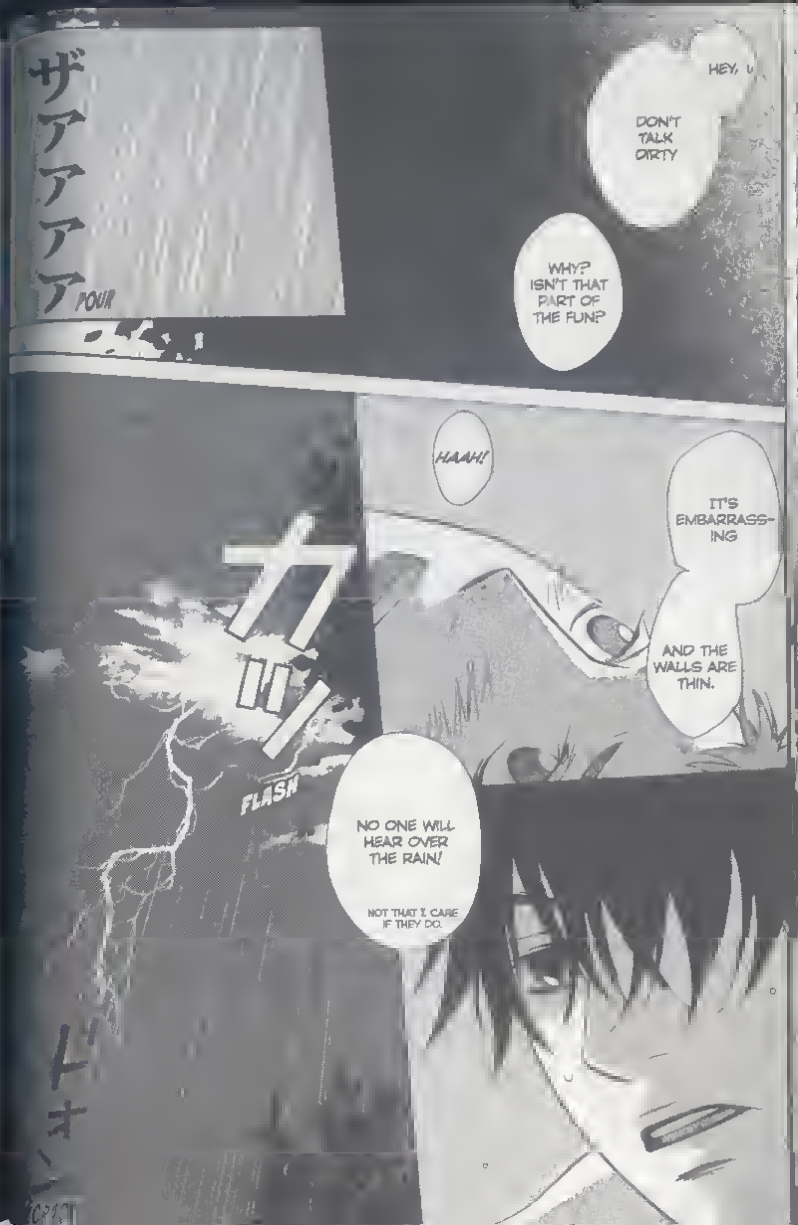
HAAH!
WH...
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
NATSU
LET'S DO IT
HUH?
WAI...
POUR

HEH!
YOU'RE CUTE. ♡
LET'S HAVE FUN
AUGH!
STOP EMBARRASSING ME!
AH HA HA!
TUG
WAH
OH WELL...
WE STILL DON'T HAVE ANY CERTAINTIES BETWEEN US
SLAP
MMPH...
POUR
HAAH!
HAAH!
NN!
SHIVER
HAAH!
NATSU...
HAAH!


...NN!
HAAH!
HAAH!
HAAH!
HAAH!
HAAH!
HAAH!
HAAH!
HAAH!
"SEEMS?" IS IT OR ISN'T IT—?
NATSU, SAY IT LOUDER
IT SEEMS PAINFUL...


HAAH!
HAAH!
SLAP
HAAH!
I CAN'T... HELP IT UNN...
NATSU, RELAX !
YOU'RE SO TIGHT...
HAAH!
HAAH!
ザアアア
POUR
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
NN

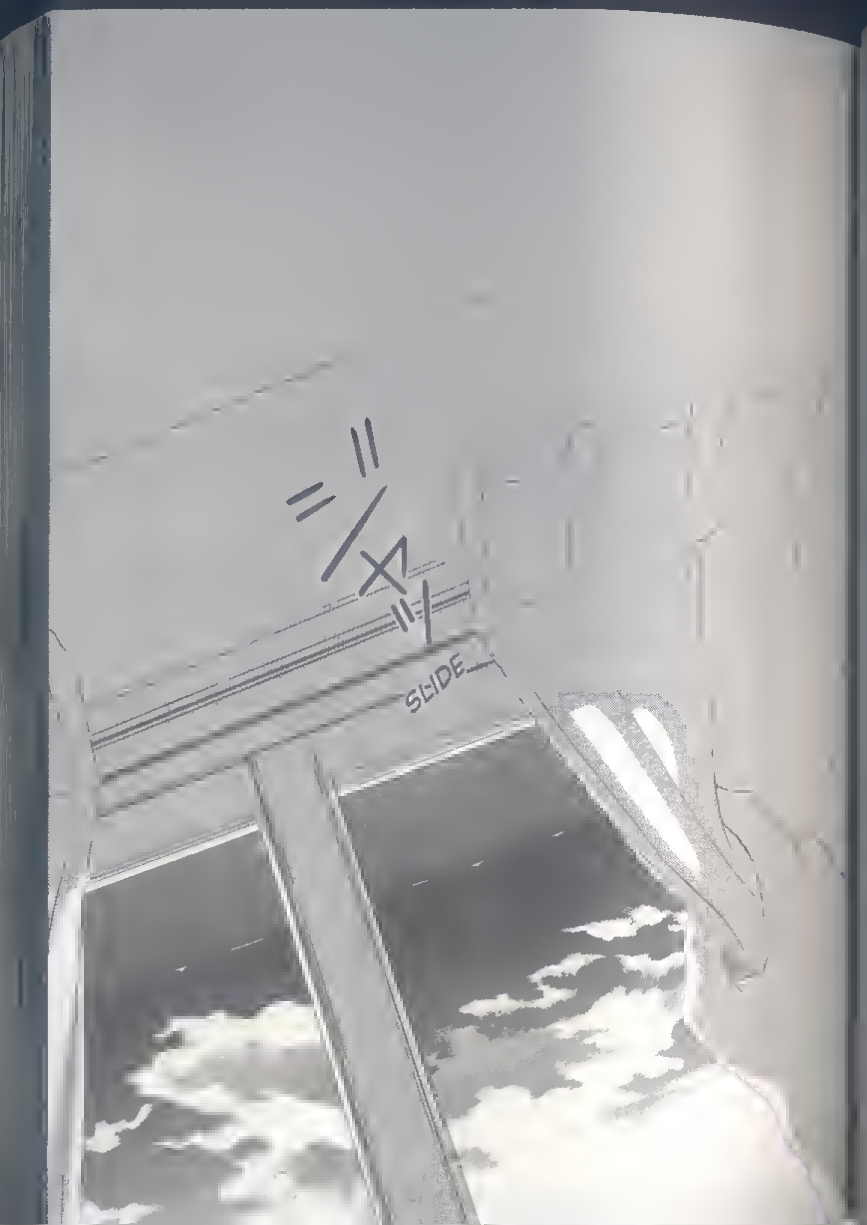

THAT STARTLED ME.
AND THERE'S THUNDER, SEE?
HEH
LET'S HIDE!
HA HA HA!
HA HA!
WHAT? WHY?
HA HA!


ザアアア
POUR
HEY, U
DON'T TALK DIRTY
WHY? ISN'T THAT PART OF THE FUN?
HAAH!
IT'S EMBARRASS-ING
AND THE WALLS ARE THIN.
FLASH
NO ONE WILL HEAR OVER THE RAIN!
NOT THAT I CARE IF THEY DO.

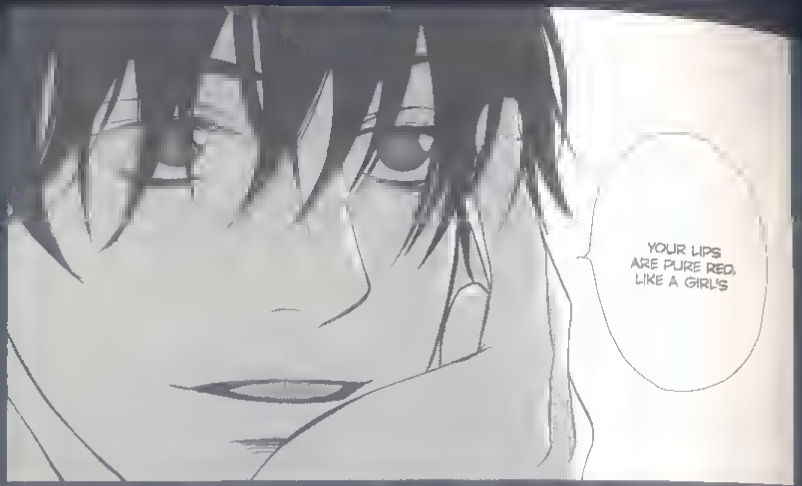
WE KISSED, AND HAD SEX
DESPITE OUR GENDERS,
AND THEN WE REALIZED

OUR STORY IS NOT
A TRAGEDY

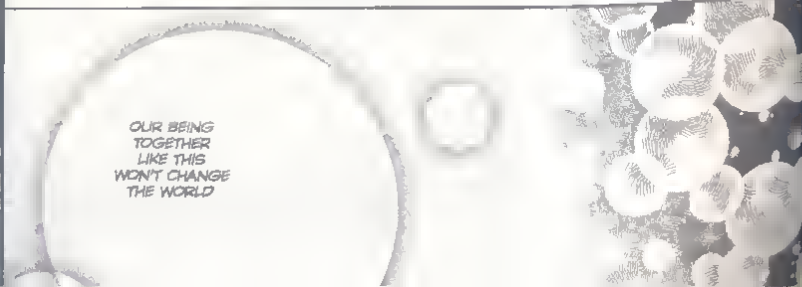
CROSS OUR HEARTS
AND HOPE TO DIE

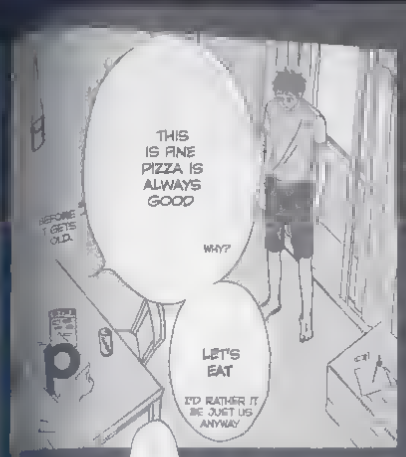


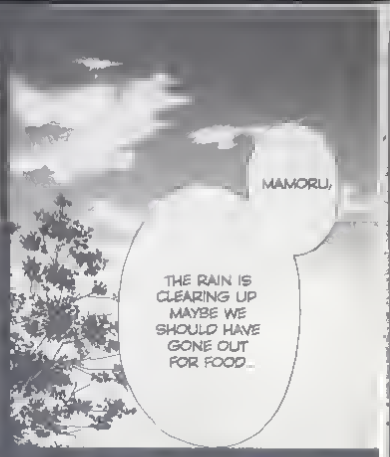
WE WILL LOVE EACH OTHER.
BODY AND SOUL

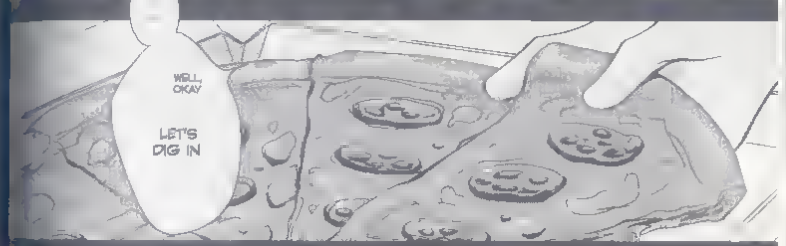

YOUR LIPS ARE PURE RED, LIKE A GIRL'S

WHAT?
SO ARE YOURS


OUR BEING TOGETHER LIKE THIS WON'T CHANGE THE WORLD


BEFORE IT GETS OLD
THIS IS FINE PIZZA IS ALWAYS GOOD
WHY?
LET'S EAT
I'D RATHER IT BE JUST US ANYWAY


MAMORU,
THE RAIN IS CLEARING UP MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE GONE OUT FOR FOOD...

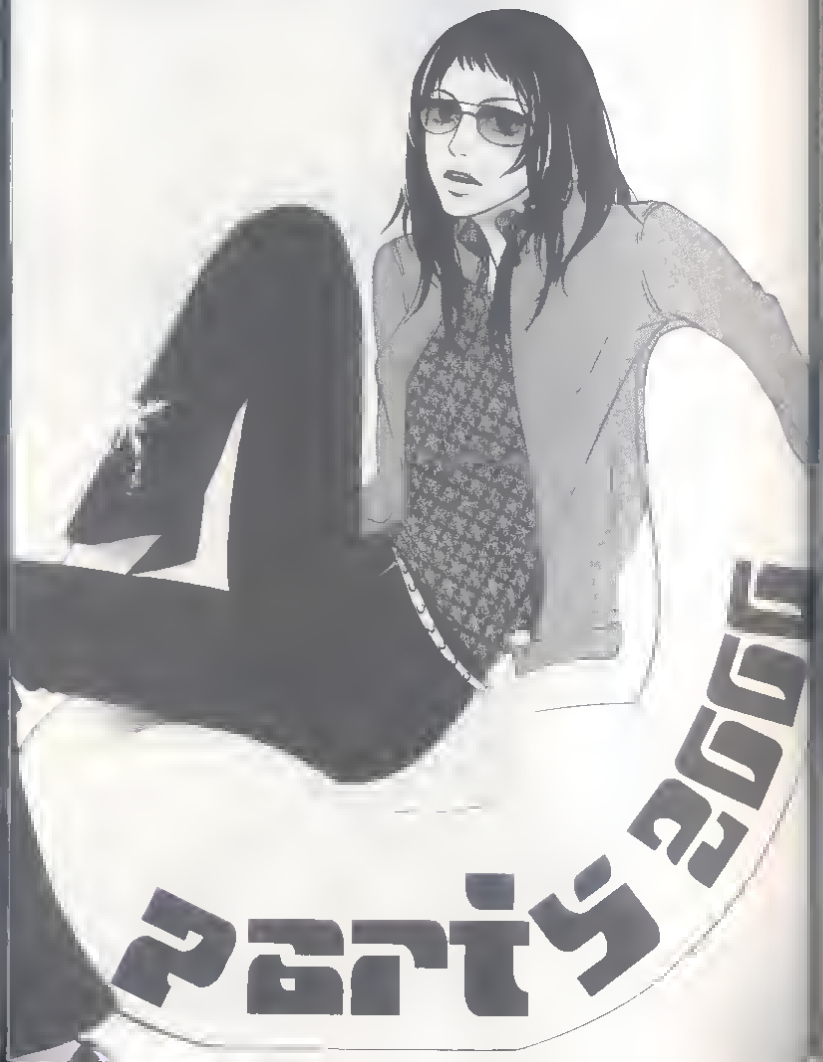

WELL, OKAY
LET'S DIG IN

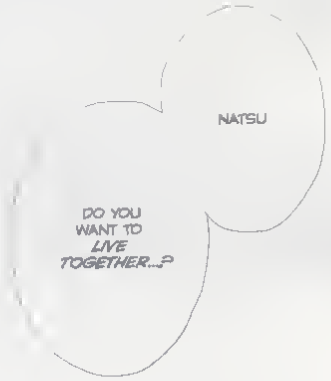
HM?
WHAT?
STARE

AH...

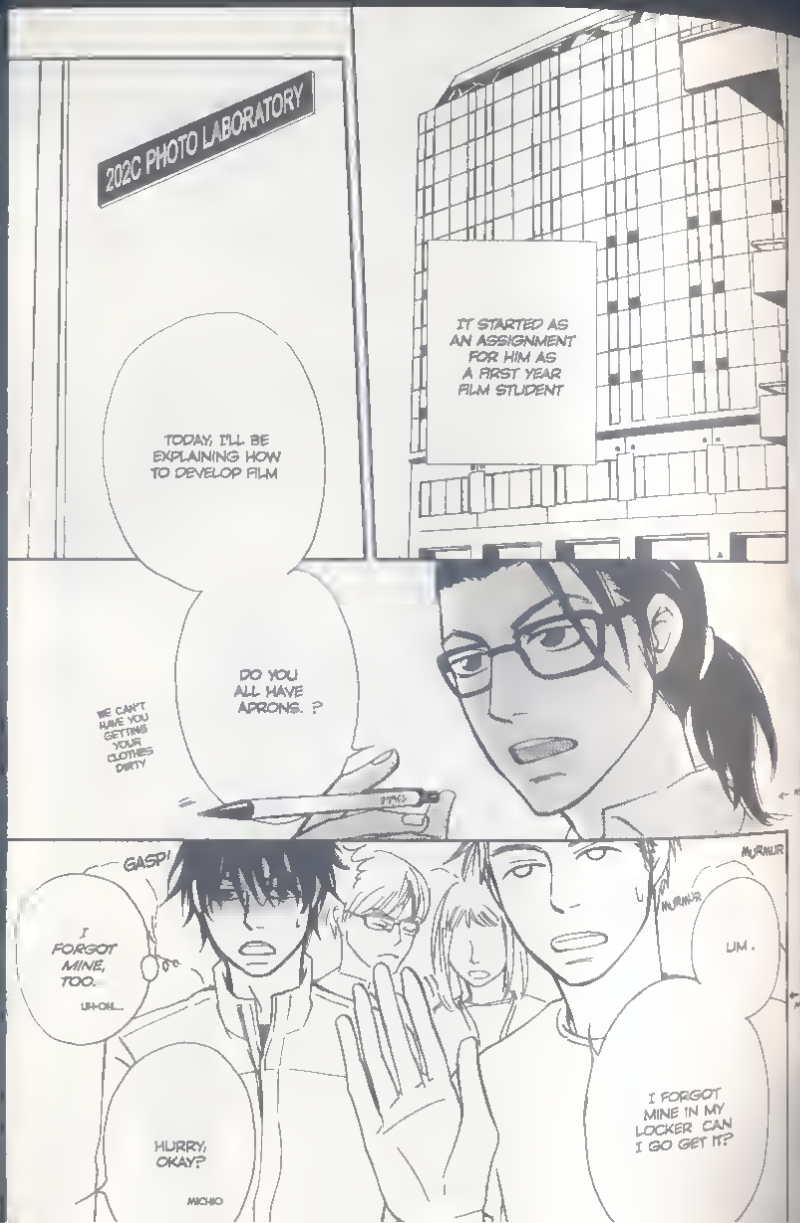
Party

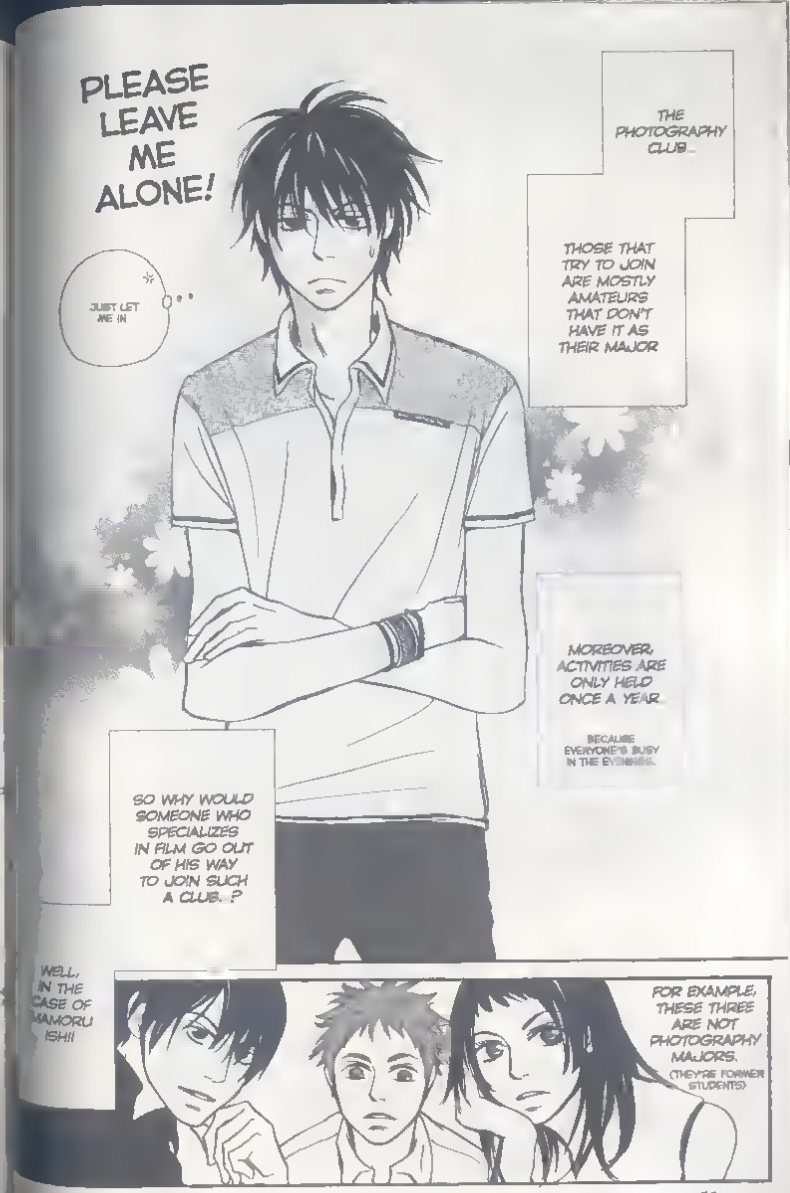
- A FATEFUL SPRING -





BUT LET'S GO ON,
BAREFOOT AS WE ARE NOW

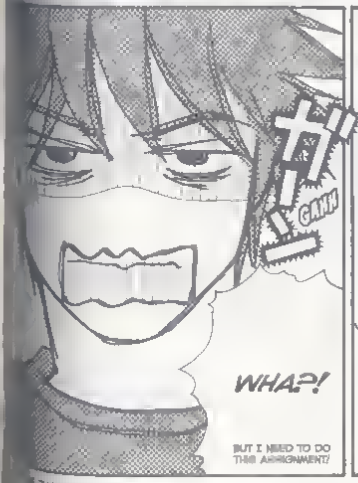

202C PHOTO LABORATORY
IT STARTED AS AN ASSIGNMENT FOR HIM AS A FIRST YEAR FILM STUDENT
TODAY, I'LL BE EXPLAINING HOW TO DEVELOP FILM
DO YOU ALL HAVE APRONS...?
WE CAN'T HAVE YOU GETTING YOUR CLOTHES DIRTY
GASP!
I FORGOT MINE, TOO...
UH-OH...
HURRY, OKAY?
MICHIO
MURMUR
UM.
I FORGOT MINE IN MY LOCKER CAN I GO GET IT?

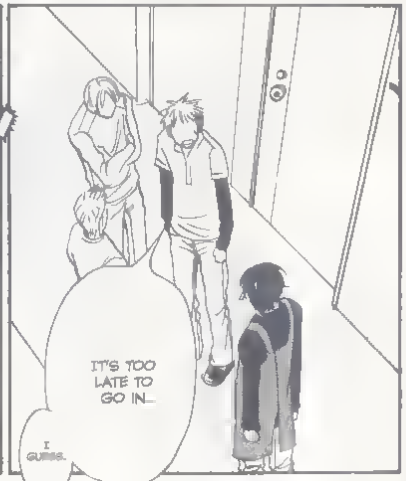

PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE!
JUST LET ME IN
THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB...
THOSE THAT TRY TO JOIN ARE MOSTLY AMATEURS THAT DON'T HAVE IT AS THEIR MAJOR
MOREOVER, ACTIVITIES ARE ONLY HELD ONCE A YEAR.
BECAUSE EVERYONE'S BUSY IN THE EVENINGS.
SO WHY WOULD SOMEONE WHO SPECIALIZES IN FILM GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO JOIN SUCH A CLUB...?
WELL, IN THE CASE OF MAMORU ISHII
FOR EXAMPLE, THESE THREE ARE NOT PHOTOGRAPHY MAJORS.
(THEY'RE FORMER STUDENTS)

AND THEN, MAMORU HAD AN IDEA

I WONDER...

↑ THREE PEOPLE WHO WERE LATE

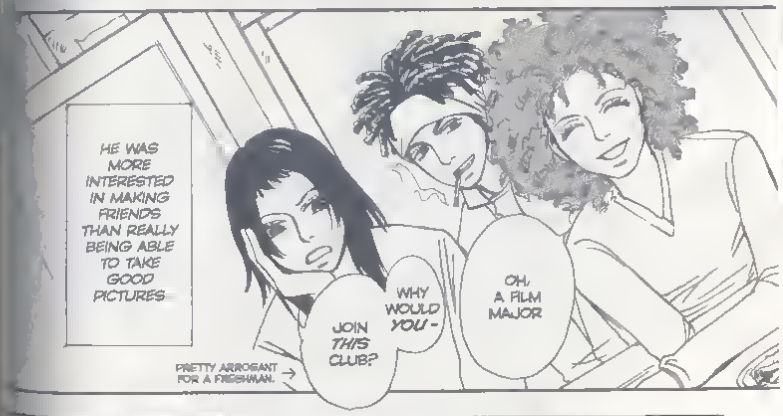


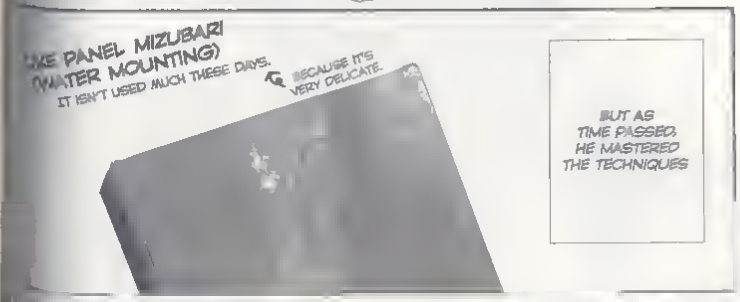


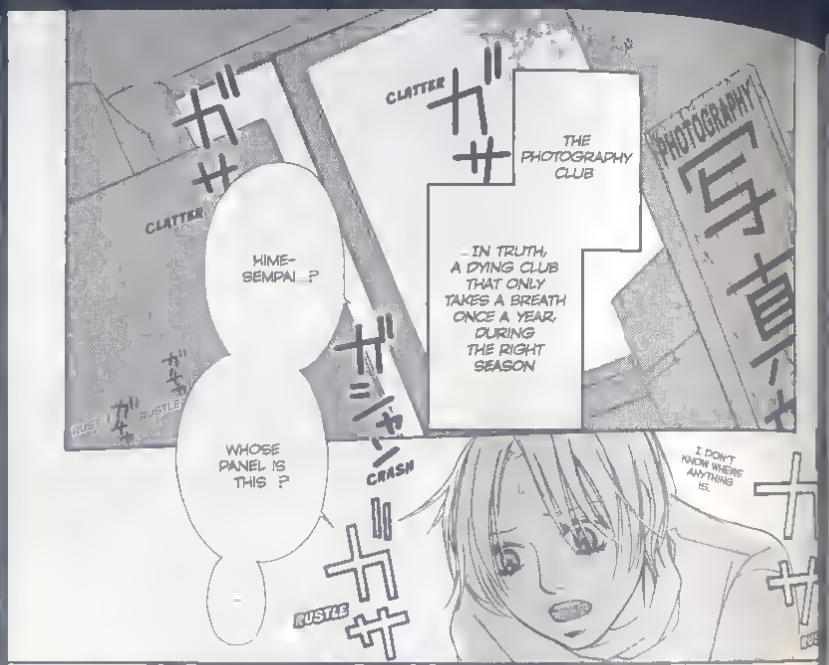
↑ JUST LIKE MICHIO.

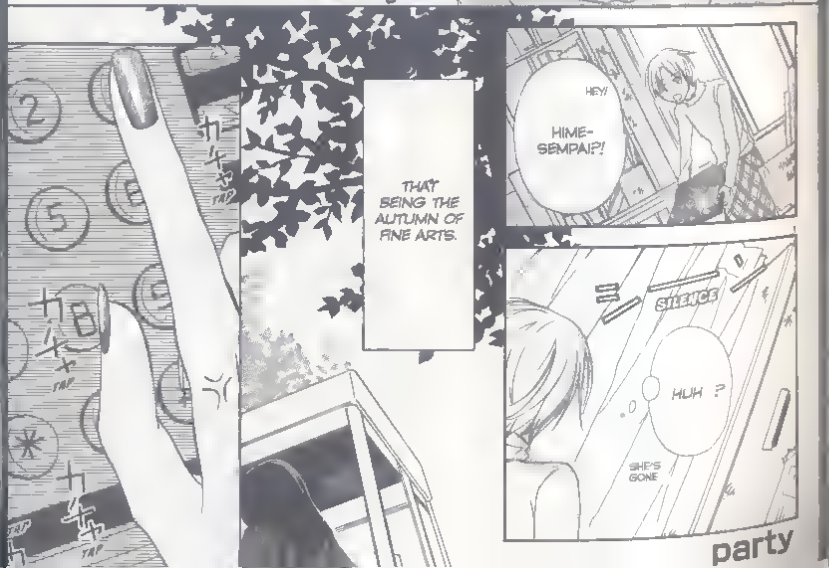
AND THEN, SEVERAL MONTHS LATER
HE MET SOMEONE WHO WOULD TURN HIS LIFE UPSIDE DOWN
HEY, I REALLY LIKE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...?

FOOSH
EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO JOIN
AFTER THAT, HE JOINED THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB WITHOUT GIVING IT MUCH MORE THOUGHT.

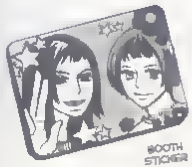

HE WAS MORE INTERESTED IN MAKING FRIENDS THAN REALLY BEING ABLE TO TAKE GOOD PICTURES
JOIN THIS CLUB?
WHY WOULD YOU-
OH, A FILM MAJOR
PRETTY ARROGANT FOR A FRESHMAN.


LIKE PANEL MIZUBARI (WATER MOUNTING)
IT ISN'T USED MUCH THESE DAYS, BECAUSE IT'S VERY DELICATE.
BUT AS TIME PASSED, HE MASTERED THE TECHNIQUES





party



BOOTH STICKER

- NAME: AYUMI HIME
- BIRTHDAY: FEBRUARY 14TH
- AGE: 20
- BLOOD TYPE: O
- HEIGHT: 173 CM
- CURRENTLY IN HER THIRD YEAR, FOR INTERIOR DESIGN
- ALSO WORKS AS A MODEL
- SHE HAS FEELINGS FOR HARUKA

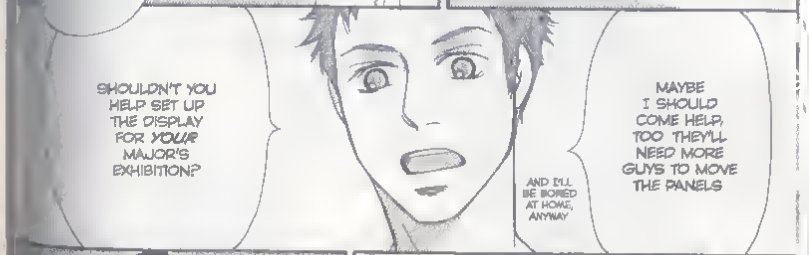
party

DON'T YOU "HELLO?" ME! WHAT TIME DO YOU THINK IT IS?!
RRR
WHOA—
プルルル RING
MNN...
STUPID PHONE...
CLICK
BEEP
HELLO?

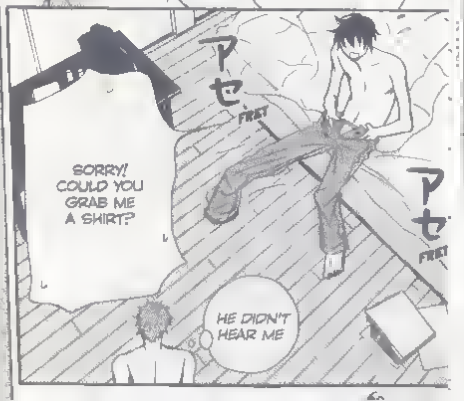
THEN, I'LL SEE YOU THERE!
LICK
ハーター
SHUT
HIME-SEMPAI!

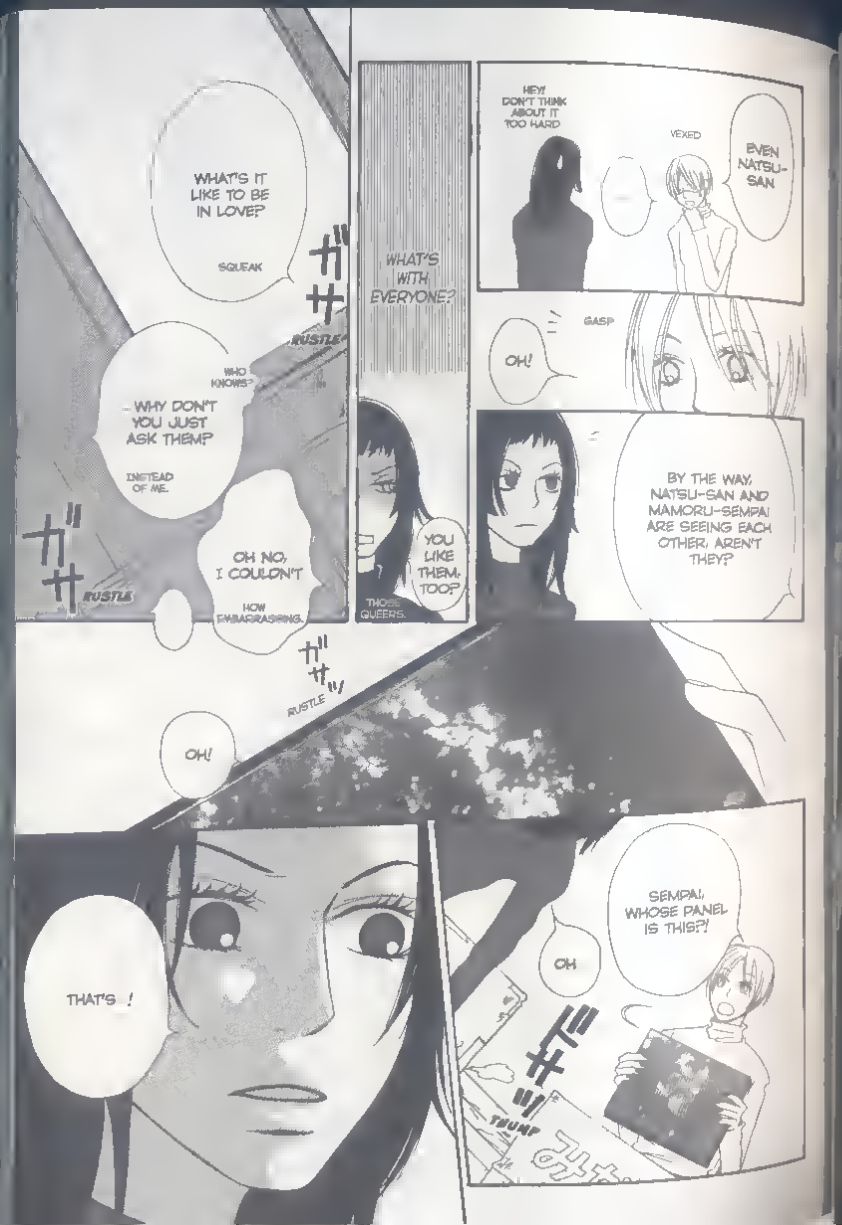
IT WAS HIME
SHE WANTS US TO COME TO SCHOOL
GASP!
OH, CRAP! WE HAVE TO SET UP FOR THE ART FAIR

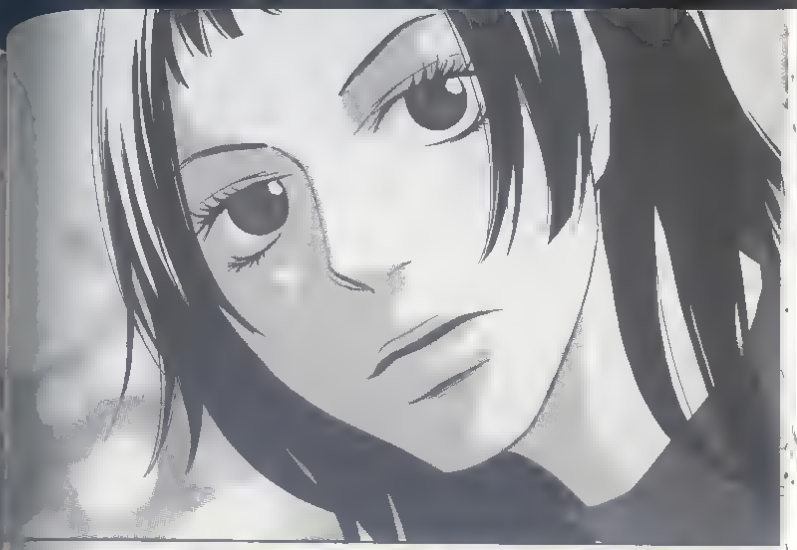
MN. WHAT A RACKET
WHO WAS THAT?

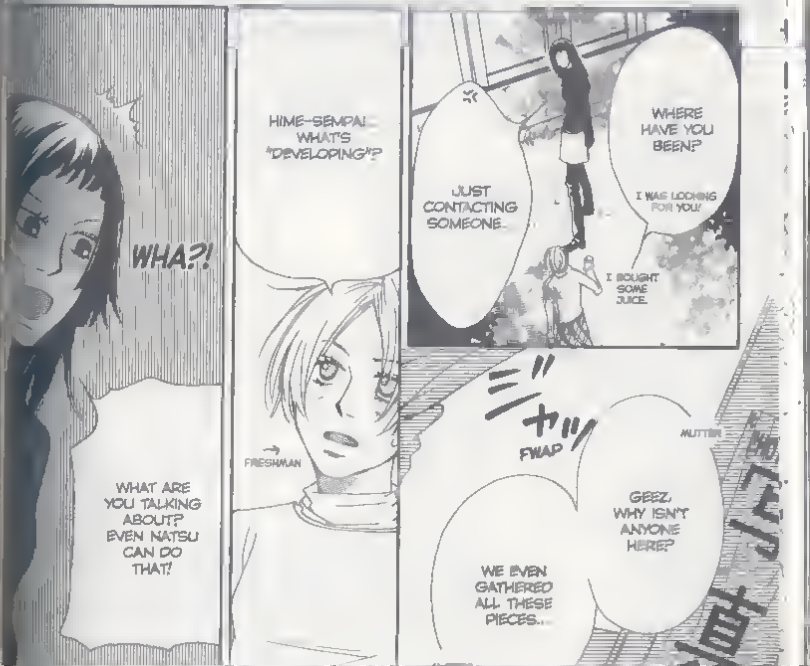

SHOULDN'T YOU HELP SET UP THE DISPLAY FOR YOUR MAJOR'S EXHIBITION?
AND I'LL BE BORED AT HOME, ANYWAY
MAYBE I SHOULD COME HELP, TOO THEY'LL NEED MORE GUYS TO MOVE THE PANELS

ガチャ
CREAK
NATSU!
YOU'RE COMING, RIGHT?
カチャ
CREAK
I'M GONNA STOP AT MY PLACE FIRST


アセ
FIRST
SORRY! COULD YOU GRAB ME A SHIRT?
アセ
FIRST
HE DIDN'T HEAR ME

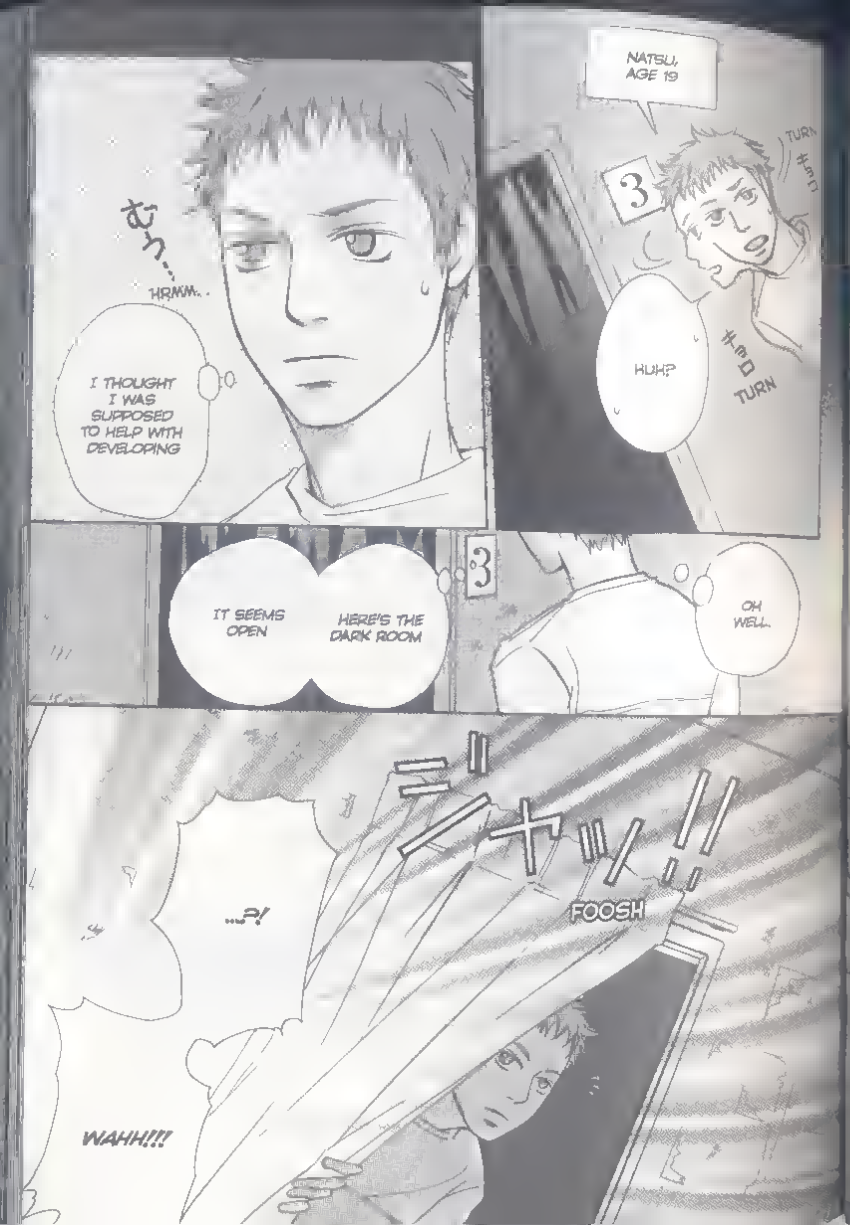

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE IN LOVE?
SQUEAK
RUSTLE
WHO KNOWS?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK THEM?
INSTEAD OF ME.
OH NO, I COULDN'T
HOW EMBARRASSING.
RUSTLE
WHAT'S WITH EVERYONE?
YOU LIKE THEM, TOO?
THOSE QUEERS.
HEY! DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO HARD
VEXED
EVEN NATSU-SAN
GASP
OH!
BY THE WAY, NATSU-SAN AND MAMORU-SEMPAI ARE SEEING EACH OTHER, AREN'T THEY?
RUSTLE
OH!
THAT'S !
SEMPAI, WHOSE PANEL IS THIS?!
OH
THUMP




WHA?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? EVEN NATSU CAN DO THAT!
HIME-SEMPAI... WHAT'S "DEVELOPING"?
FRESHMAN
JUST CONTACTING SOMEONE...
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU!
I BOUGHT SOME JUICE.
FWAP
MUTTER
GEEZ, WHY ISN'T ANYONE HERE?
WE EVEN GATHERED ALL THESE PIECES...

I SEE
IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS THAT MAMORU AND I MET..
MAMORU TOOK IT
IS IT YOURS?
A FAN OF MAMO/NATSU
KYAA!
TELL ME EVERYTHING!
BUT IT'S BORING
OOPS.
ビクッ!
STARTLE
SHU...T U...P!!!
GRR
GRR
DIDN'T YOU COME HERE TO HELP?!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO GUSH OVER YOUR LOVER, AT LEAST GIVE ME A HAND!!!
ユラ
STEAM

TADA!
HIME, I'M HERE TO HELP!
FWOOSH
THAT MUST BE
NATSU!
きゃ♡
KYA!
-SAN!
THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES!
HELPING HIS CLASS-MATES
WHERE'S MAMORU?
I CAME IN HIS PLACE.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THIS!
SO IT WAS ERE ALL ALONG
...HEY!
IS THERE SOME-THING I CAN DO ?


NATSU, AGE 19
3
TURN
HUH?
TURN
むぅ...
HRMM..
I THOUGHT I WAS SUPPOSED TO HELP WITH DEVELOPING
3
IT SEEMS OPEN
HERE'S THE DARK ROOM
OH WELL.
ニャッ!!
FOOSH
...?!
WAHH!!!

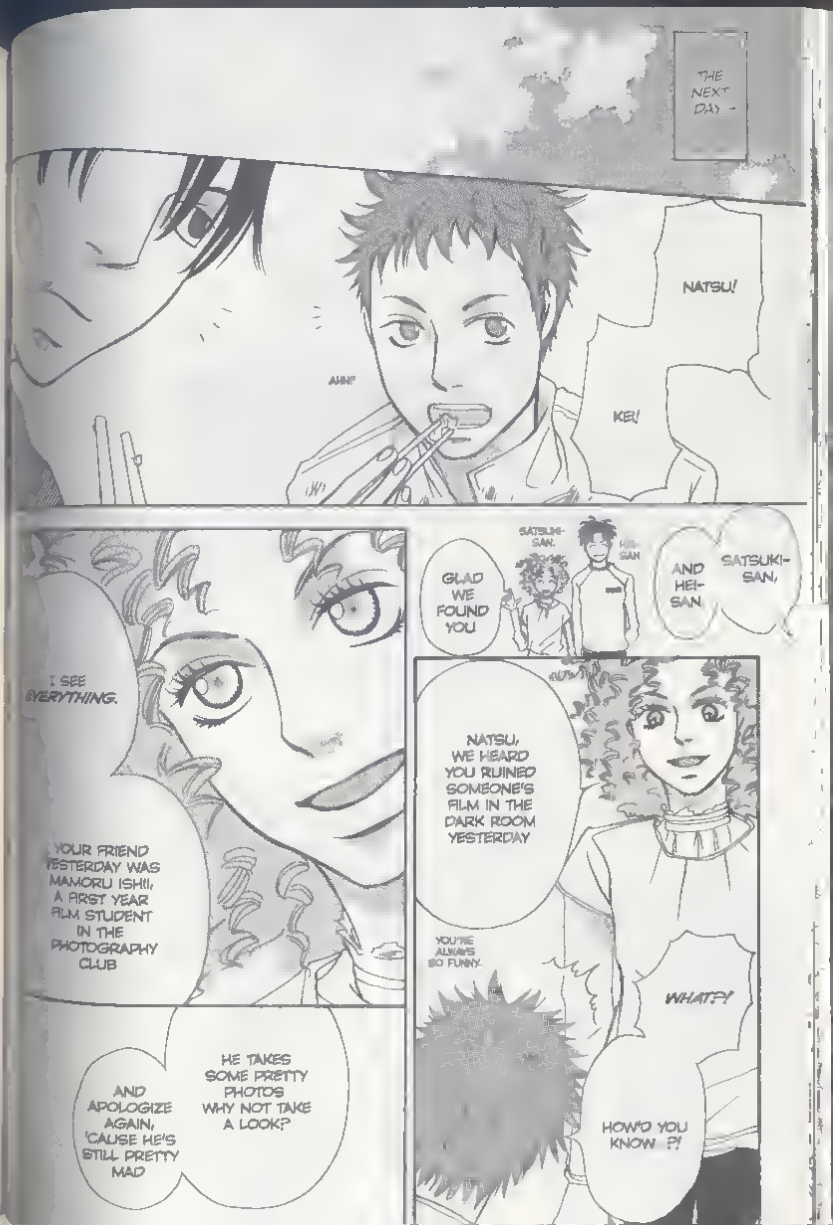
SO?
SHHH
SHHH
COME ON IT'S NO BIG DEAL..
BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT STORY!
NOT FOR ME, FOR MIYUKI
USHH..
ARE YOU GOING TO TELL US THE "HOW WE MET" STORY?
GRIN
TEASE
SQUEAL
SQUEAL
PLEASE TELL ME EVERYTHING.
MEGUMU!
ONE YEAR AGO..

AH
HEY
WOOSH
NATSU,
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
YOU'RE MAKING A WEIRD FACE.
I WENT INTO THE DARKROOM WITHOUT REALIZING SOMEONE WAS IN THERE.
OH
THIS WAS DUE TOMORROW!
DAMN YOU!
(SOB)
YOU'RE "SORRY"!?
THE FILM IS RUINED.
GYU
GASP!
AH!
I'M SORRY!?
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
(SOB)
HEHE.
I SAID I WAS SORRY!
BUMP
STEP
CRACKLE
WHAT'S WITH HIS ATTITUDE?

SMILE
YO!
WHAT'S WITH THE LONG FACE?
MAMORU!
SATSUKI-SAN.
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN NATSU!
WITH HIS PINK HAIR.
HA HA HA HA!
NATSU!?
YOU KNOW HIM? BY THE WAY, IT'S NOT FUNNY.
IT'S LIKE THIS.
I COULDN'T SLEEP SO I DEVELOPED PICTURES IN MY BATHTUB.
HE'S A SWEET, CUTE KID. ♡
SOMEHOW, THAT DOESN'T HELP.
I GUESS MAMORU WOULDN'T KNOW
HE'S A FRESHMAN.
HE'S PRETTY FUNNY.
I'LL TALK TO HIM.
BUT...
WELL...
YOU CAN'T WIN WITH NATSU. JUST CHALK IT UP TO BAD LUCK
WHAT AN AWFUL SITUATION

IF ONLY I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HELPING YOU WITH YOUR DEVELOPING
IT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED...
HEY, HEY...!
DON'T MAKE IT MY FAULT
AND?
WELL, OF COURSE
TRUDGE
TRUDGE
HE WAS PISSED
THE FILM WAS RUINED.
MUTTER
HM?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW HIM?
I WONDER IF HE'S WITH THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB.
OH, IT'S MAMORU!

THERE'S A CRITIQUE GOING ON IN THE BASEMENT WHY DON'T YOU GO CHECK IT OUT?
MICHIO'S THERE, TOO.
BUT HOW...?
TAKE A LOOK...?
MICHIO-SAN!
HMM...


THE NEXT DAY...
NATSU!
AHH!
KEI!
I SEE EVERYTHING.
YOUR FRIEND YESTERDAY WAS MAMORU ISHII, A FIRST YEAR FILM STUDENT IN THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
HE TAKES SOME PRETTY PHOTOS WHY NOT TAKE A LOOK?
AND APOLOGIZE AGAIN, 'CAUSE HE'S STILL PRETTY MAD
SATSUKI-SAN.
HEI-SAN
GLAD WE FOUND YOU
AND HEI-SAN.
SATSUKI-SAN,
NATSU, WE HEARD YOU RUINED SOMEONE'S FILM IN THE DARK ROOM YESTERDAY
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO FUNNY.
WHAT?!
HOW'D YOU KNOW...?!

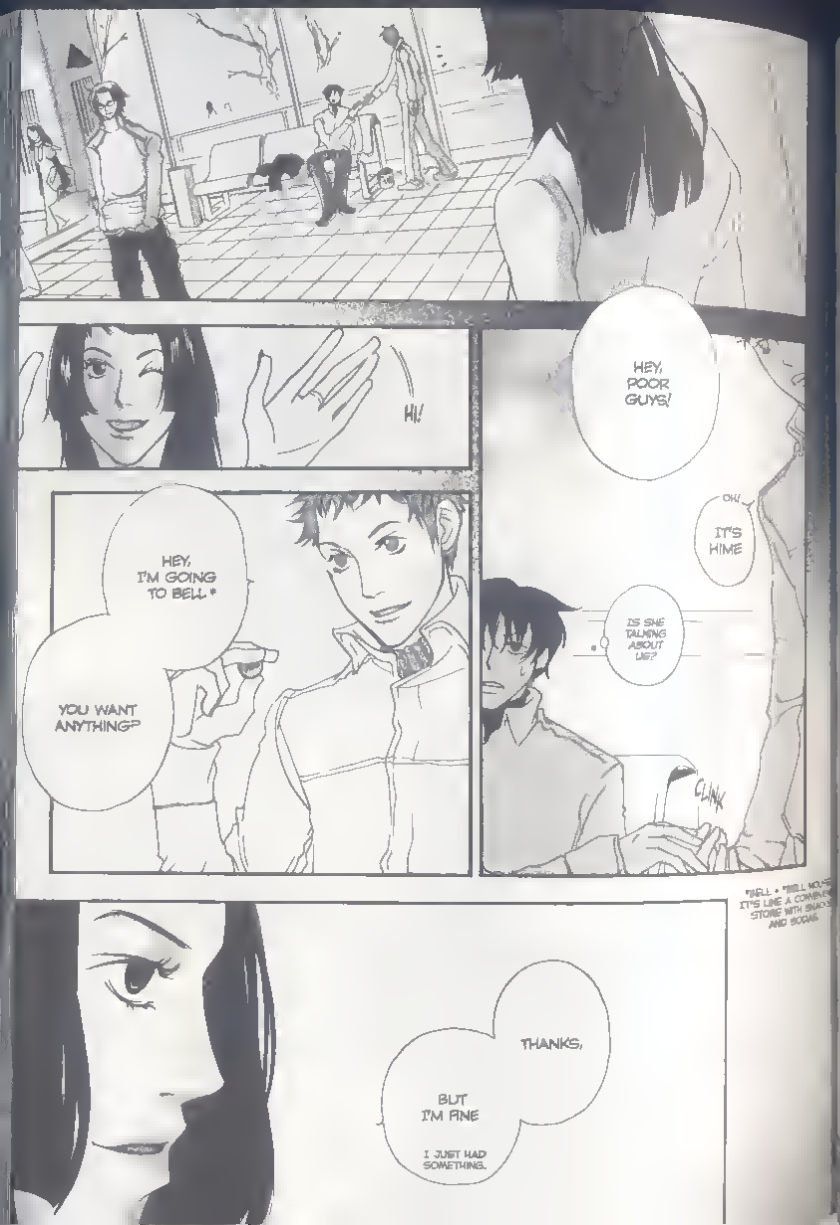
AND IT...?
NATSU,
WELL? DID YOU...

...N WE
...AME A
...OOK
...NSIDE?
...HEARD
...NGS ABOUT
...CRITIQUE.
WORKS IN THE FILM DEPARTMENT
YEAH, YOU CAN GO IN ONCE WE'RE FINISHED
OH, WHAT ARE YOU TWO UP TO?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
HELLO.
TSUNAGI

...AND SO,
WHEN I WENT TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM IS WHEN WE REALLY MET.
AND THIS IS THAT PHOTO?
YEAH.
BUT WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?
WHEN I LOOK AT IT NOW, IT'S NOT THAT GREAT
HEY!
DON'T SAY THAT
FLINCH
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I HEAR IT, IT'S STILL A STUPID STORY
WHICH MAKES IT PERFECT FOR MAMORU
I THINK SO, TOO.
HA HA.
HEH
THEN YOU'D BETTER APOLOGIZE TO HIM AGAIN.
I LOVE THIS PHOTO.

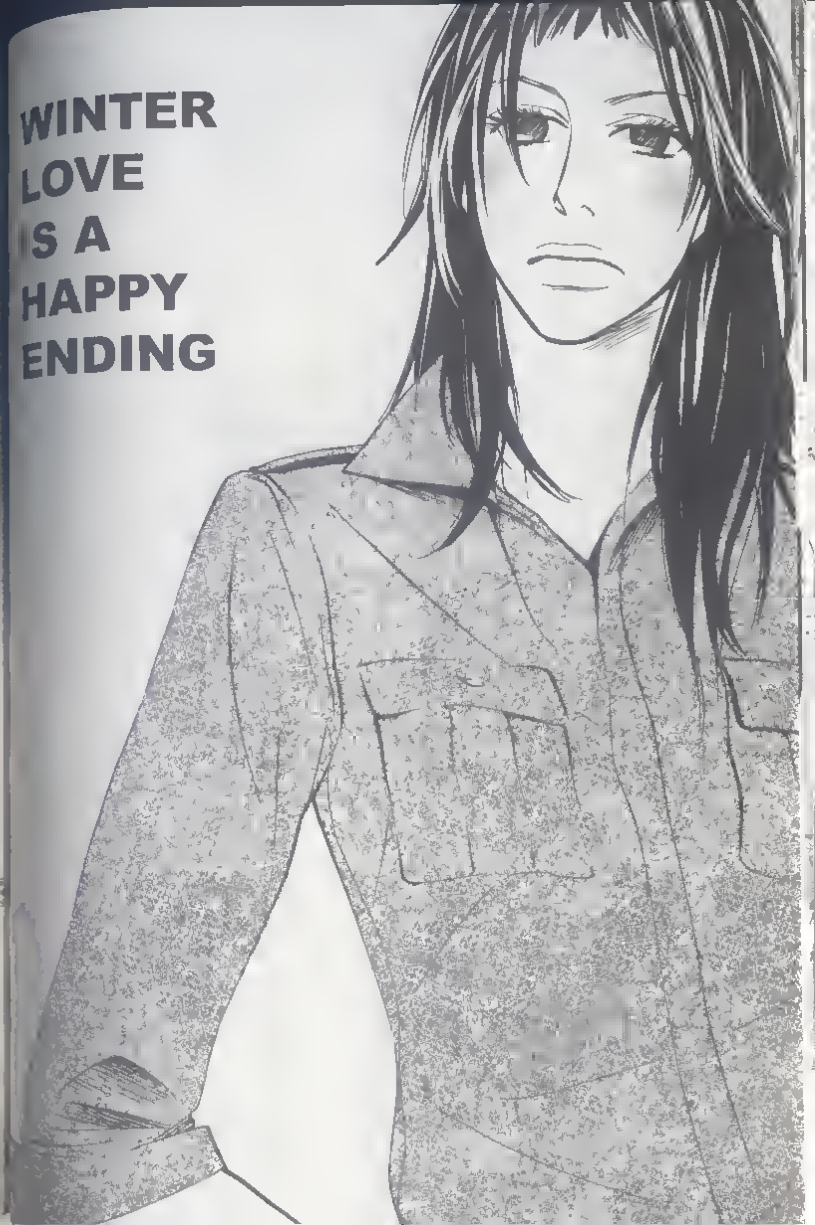
IT'S NOTHING
CHUCKLE
OH,
THIS?
?
WHAT'S THAT?
I'M STARVING!
LET'S GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT
STEP
NOT REALLY
I JUST FINISHED
SLIDE
SORRY!
DID YOU WAIT LONG?

...WHAT'S THIS, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
MAMORU...
YOU KNOW, I *REALLY* LOVE YOU
I HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT WHEN I'M WITH YOU!
YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG, DID YOU?
I WASN'T WAITING LONG
THEN I DON'T GET IT



*BELL • "BELL MOUTH" IT'S LIKE A CONVENIENCE STORE WITH SNACKS AND BOOKS

WINTER LOVE IS A HAPPY ENDING



BUT WOULDN'T IT BE RUDE OF ME TO JUST ASK HIM?
HEY..
UGHH
SMILE
HOW ABOUT I ASK HIM?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I WAS THE ONE WHO CONFESSED MY FEELINGS FIRST
N-
NO, YOU CAN'T!
PLEASE DON'T! I MEAN IT!
SEIYU
HE ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING FUN.
YOU KNOW, I JUST DON'T GET IT
SHE'S NOT GOING TO TEASE ME, IS SHE?
HERE COMES SOMETHING NASTY
WHAT?
I GET WHY YOU LOVE NATSU
HE'S CUTE.
NOW THAT SHE'S MENTIONED IT...
BUT I WONDER WHAT NATSU SEES IN YOU
I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT HE'D BE MORE INTERESTED IN KEI
I'VE NEVER ASKED
RATHER, I'VE NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED ASKING.

NO, YOU IDIOT! NOT THAT WAY! YOU'RE GONNA GET KILLED!

NO REASON
DID HIME SAY ANYTHING TO YOU?
HM?
WHY?
NO.
NOT REALLY
IT'S NOTHING.
LET'S GET A SCARY ONE!
SOMETHING STUPID.
BUT IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, EITHER
UHH
OH, OKAY
HEY, YOU WANNA RENT A MOVIE?
SURE

GAH!
WHAT?!
EMBARRASSED?
YOU?
IT'S EMBARRASSING!
YOU'RE ASKING THAT NOW?
WHY AREN'T YOU ANSWERING?!
JUST ANSWER ME!
GRR
GRR
I-
I LOVE YOU!
THERE, OKAY?

AND HE GETS MAD EASILY
STARE
CLENCHED FIST
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
NATSU
COMPLETELY INTO IT?
HM?
DO YOU LOVE ME?
SILENCE

YOU DON'T WANT TO?
IS THE MOVIE THAT IMPORTANT?
IT'S NOT THAT... YOU'RE JUST ACTING WEIRD TODAY
IT'S ANNOYING.
BLANKET
HEY-
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HEY!
IT'S TOO SUDDEN
UNNA JIRT
BUT I WANT TO DO IT NOW!
IT WON'T HURT
WHAT?
BUT THE MOVIE IT ENT
THE . MOVIE ?
STUFF
NATSU...
ANSWER ME HONESTLY...
WHO DO YOU LOVE MORE, ME OR KEI?

DO YOU THINK IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE ALL THE THINGS YOU LOVE?

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
STAY OVER? WELL OKAY
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, FUNNY BUSINESS?
MAMORU'S MAD AT ME...
YOU WANT SOME COFFEE?
SURE.
THEN WHY DO YOU HAVE TO LEAVE HOME?
BECAUSE I'M MAD, TOO!
WELL, COME IN ALREADY
SO YOU HAD A FIGHT
DING DONG!
IT'S COLD
GACHA
CREAK
WHAT HAPPENED?!
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
HIME, CAN I STAY OVER TONIGHT?
NO FUNNY BUSINESS, I PROMISE
COMING
I WONDER WHO IT IS.
A RUSSIAN.
NATSU?!
THUNG

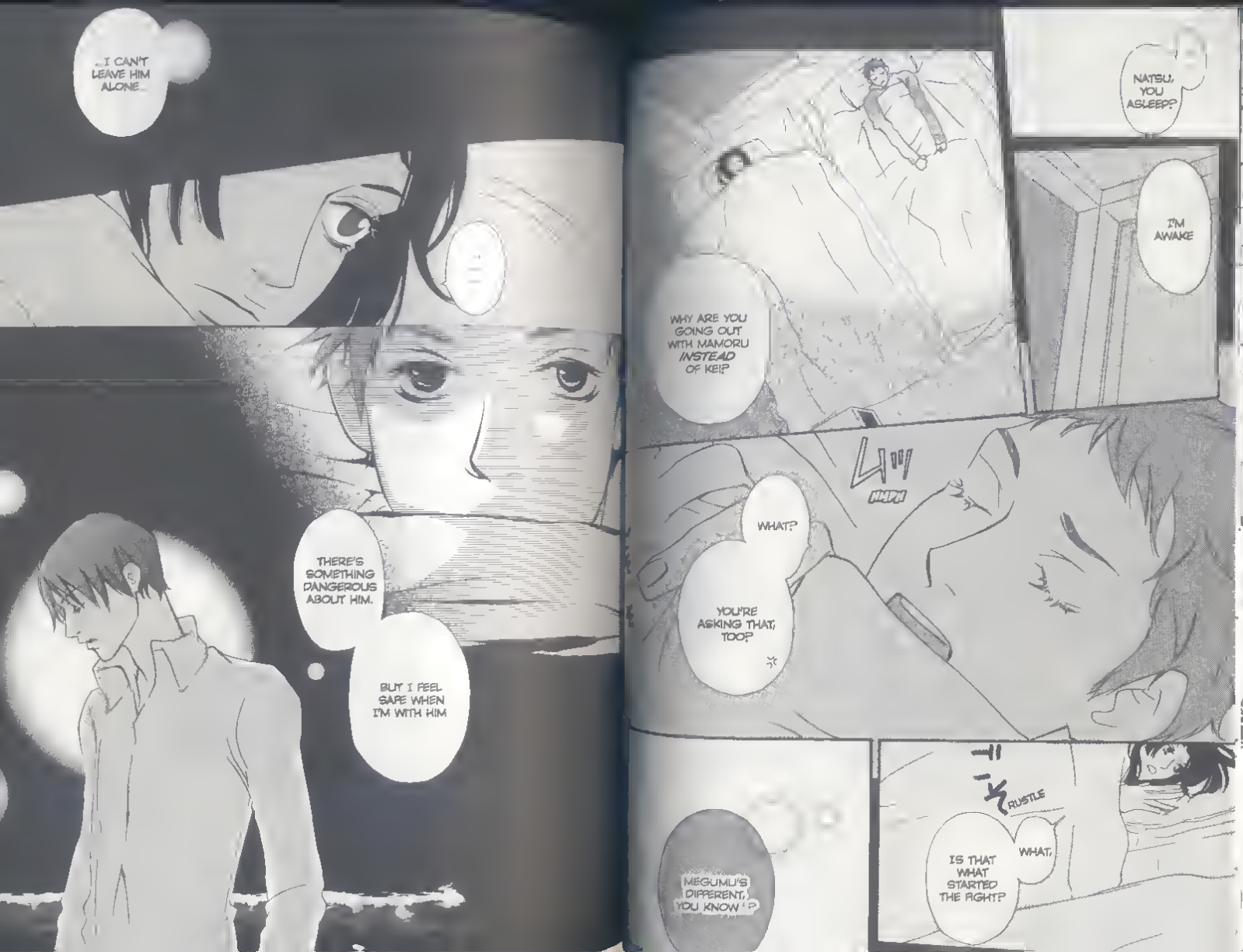
RIGHT HERE
IS IT REALLY THAT SURPRISING?
H-HOW'D YOU KNOW?!
YOUR COFFEE'S GETTING COLD.
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
はっ!!
GASP!
COULD IT BE...
ばっ
STARTLE
ざっ
PUSH
HIME.
WHERE'S YOUR BATHROOM?
I'M BORROWING YOUR MIRROR!
THAT WAY...
JUMP

BUT STILL
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TWO TO FIGHT
WHAT DID YOU DO?
WHAT STARTED IT?
コポポ
POUR
HMPH!
SHRUG
SHRUG
BUT HE WOULDN'T LET IT GO
IT WAS PRETTY STUPID
HE WAS PISSING ME OFF
HMPH!
AH!
HMM
NOT SURE I GET IT
HUH?!
ピンポーン
TH-THUNP
..AND YET..
YOU STILL HAD TIME TO FOOL AROUND
SMIRK

AH-
ACHOO!
SNIFFLE
...
IT'S LIKE...
A TOMB...
COMPLETELY
GAH! HE PISSES ME OFF!
WHAT IS HE DOING?
I SHOULD HAVE HIT HIM AGAIN.
HE LEFT A MARK.
HE JUST GOT CARRIED AWAY!
I TOLD HIM NOT TO!
I'M NOT APOLOGIZING TO HIM!
CLENCH
SHIT...
HE REALLY DID LEAVE...
HE GOT HIT

NO, HE'S NOT DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
—WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
HEY, IS NATSU WITH YOU?
HE LEFT
FLAKE
HUH?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
P
MAN.
プル……
RING
プルルル
RING
プルルルル
RING
プルルルル
RING
YES ?
WHAT?
IT'S MAMORU
YEAH, I WAS SLEEPING
WHAT?
……

YOU'LL LET ME STAY TOMORROW NIGHT, TOO?
CLICK
I'M NOT GOING HOME UNTIL MAMORU APOLOGIZES!
HMPH!
HEE HEE.
YOU CAN ALWAYS GO HOME, IF YOU WANT
CLICK
DON'T BE STUPID IT'S WINTER, YOU SHOULD SLEEP ON SEVERAL
WE DON'T USE SLEEPING BAGS IN THIS HOUSE!
NATSU,
HOW MANY MATTRESS PADS DO YOU NEED?
ONE IS ENOUGH
I'M FINE.
I HAVE A SLEEPING PACK
ENOUGH ALREADY
OH,
SORRY
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D ALREADY GRABBED A FUTON
ALREADY LAYING IT OUT
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
YOU CAN GET IT YOURSELF TOMORROW
BUT FOR TONIGHT, YOU'RE A GUEST
HUH?!
THUMP

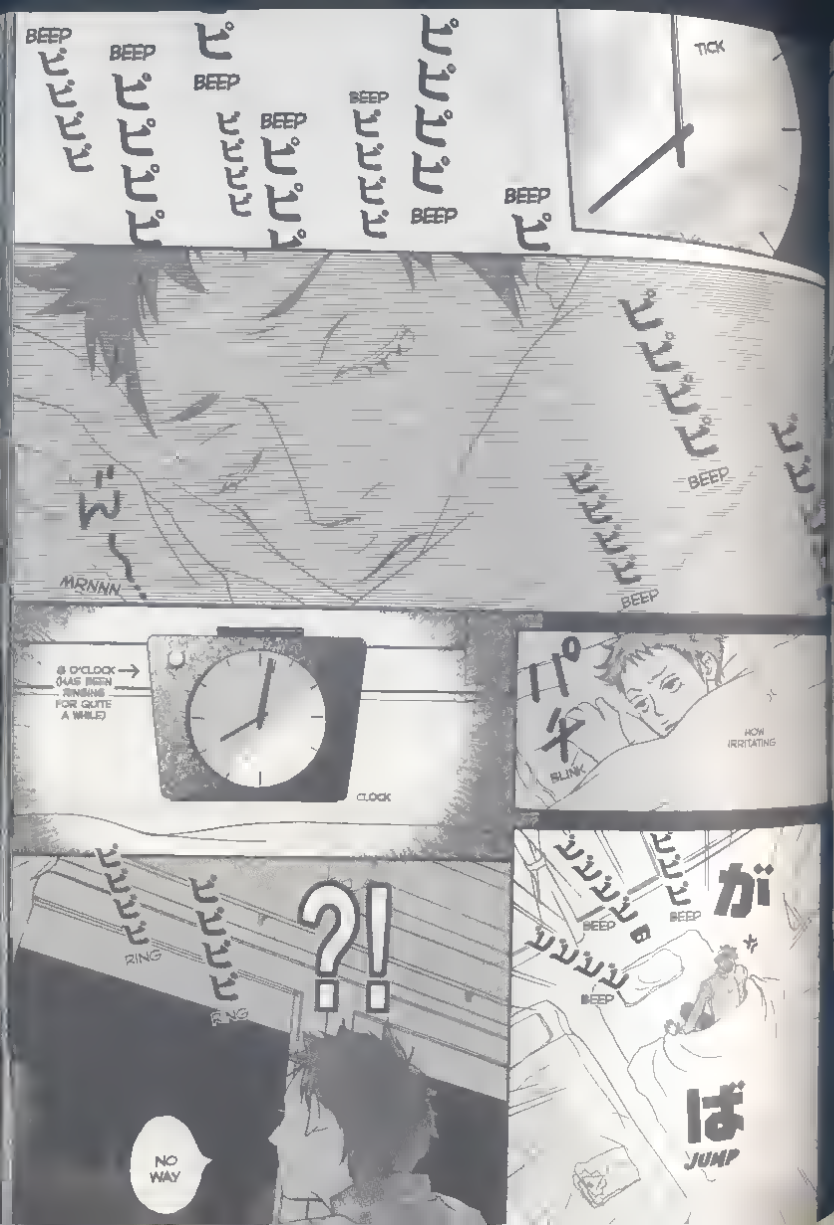

...I CAN'T LEAVE HIM ALONE...
THERE'S SOMETHING DANGEROUS ABOUT HIM.
BUT I FEEL SAFE WHEN I'M WITH HIM
NATSU, YOU ASLEEP?
I'M AWAKE
WHY ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH MAMORU INSTEAD OF KEI?
HMPH
WHAT?
YOU'RE ASKING THAT, TOO?
RUSTLE
WHAT,
IS THAT WHAT STARTED THE FIGHT?
MEGUMU'S DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW?

SO WHAT DID YOU DO?
TELL ME
GLEAM
RAPE?!

WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER HALF OUR LIVES
IT'S LIKE WE'RE PRACTICALLY RELATED
I DIDN'T HAVE THE CHANCE!
MAN, IT'S PISSING ME OFF AGAIN.
SO KEI'S LIKE A BROTHER TO YOU...
YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST TOLD MAMORU THAT

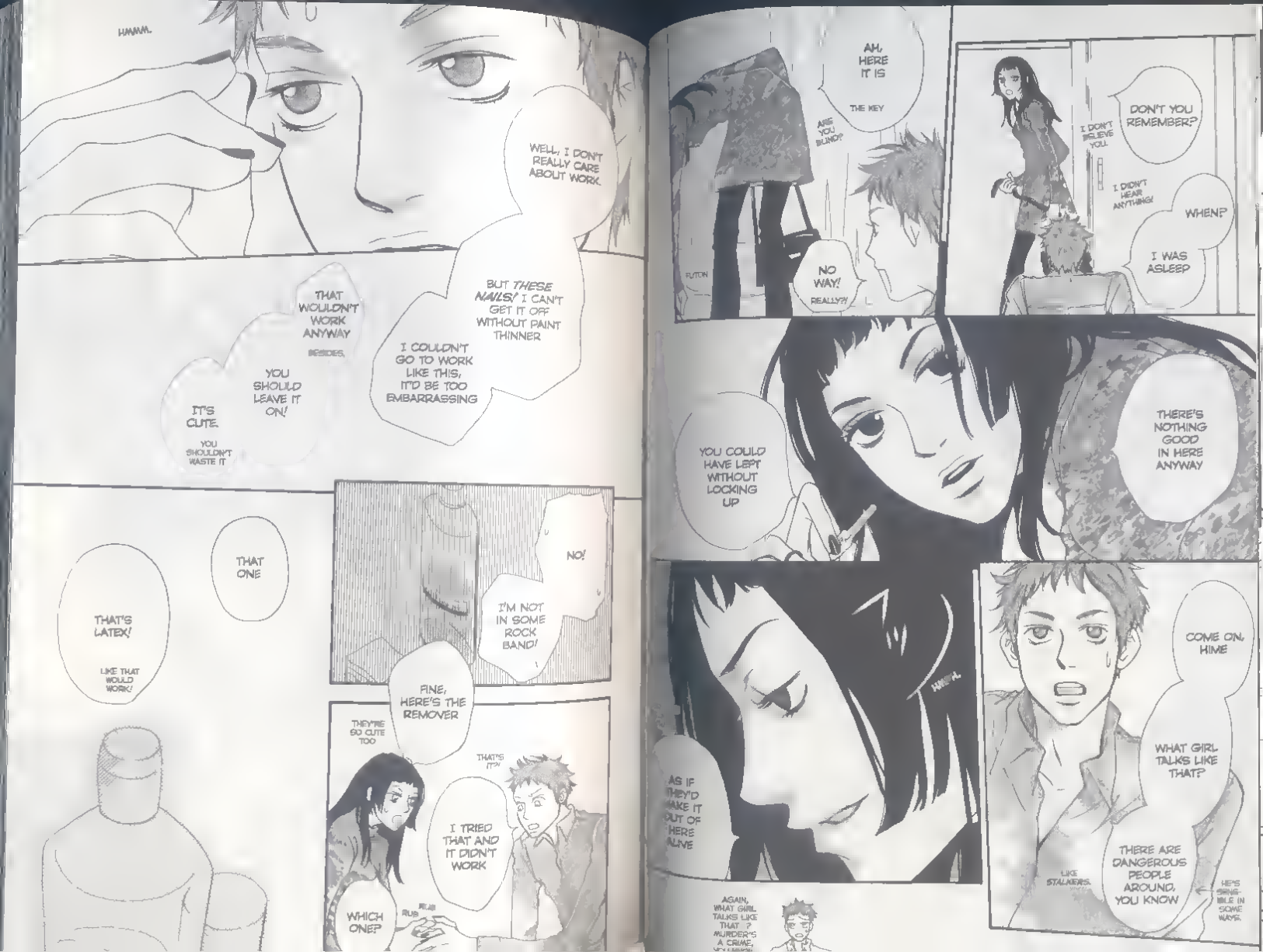
FOR NOW, WHY NOT GO TO HIS WORK PLACE TO APOLOGIZE?
!
I WAS SO UPSET, I FORGOT
THAT'S RIGHT! HE HAS WORK TODAY!
I'LL DO THAT
THANK YOU FOR THE ADVICE

NOT SO LOUD...
HE HIT ME, TOO.
EQUAL
IT WASN'T LIKE THAT
WE JUST GOT CARRIED AWAY
WE'RE BOYFRIENDS, AFTER ALL...
IN SHORT, A FIGHT
SILENCE
I TOTALLY THOUGHT HE WAS WITH YOU.
NOT A CLUE
I EVEN CALLED HIS FOLKS...
I WONDER ABOUT THAT
NATSU CAN HOLD A GRUDGE FOR A WHILE
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE IS?
WELL,
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
HE'LL COME BACK EVENTUALLY


TICK
BEEP
ピピピピピ
BEEP
ピピピピピ
BEEP
ピピピピピ

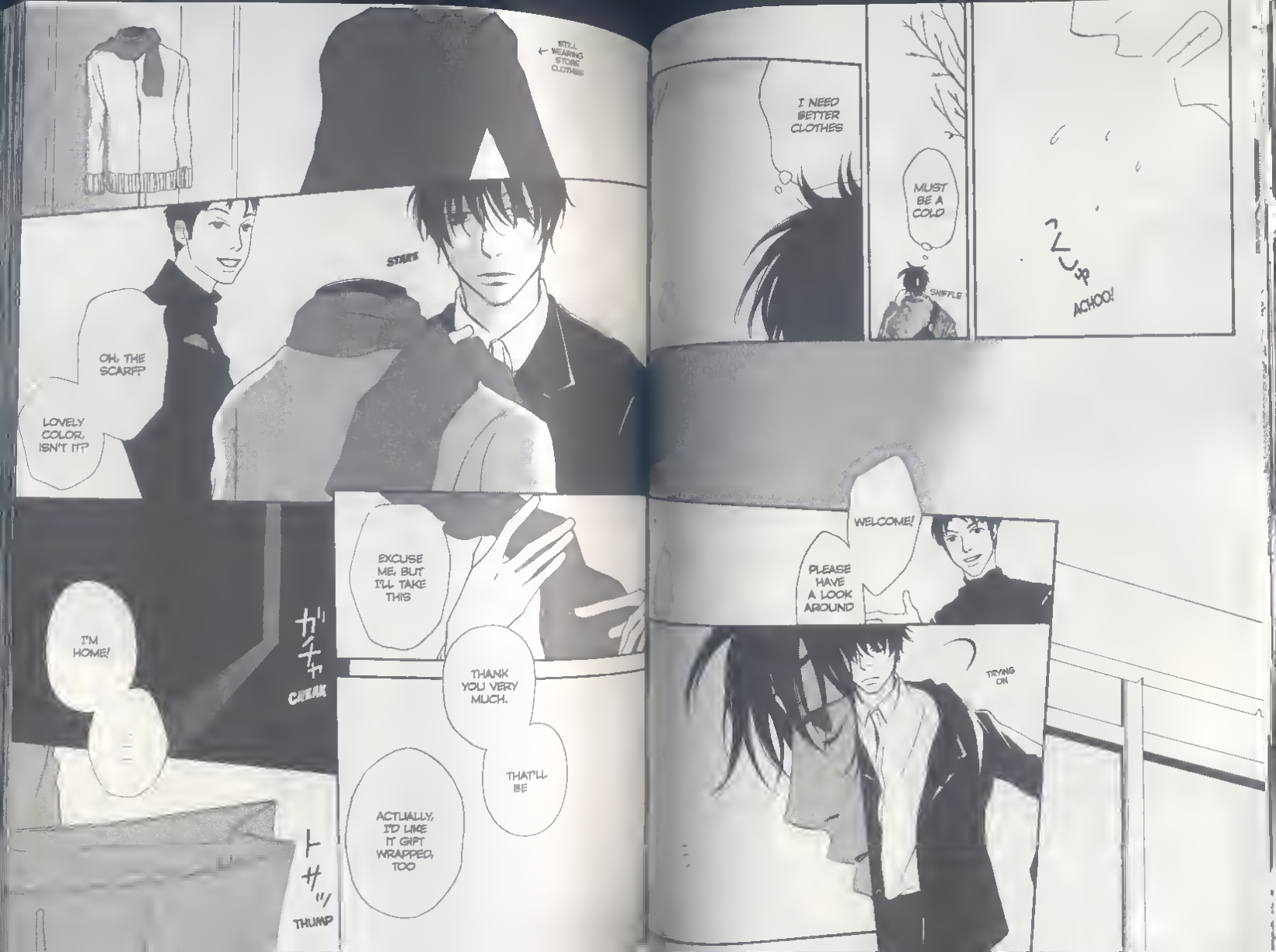
HE TURNED THE LIGHTS ON
WHAT THE HELL?!
GAHH!
AHH! MY TOENAILS, TOO!
BRIGHT RED
DAMN THAT HIME!
PLAYING TRICKS ON ME
BUT HE STILL FOLDS THE FUTON (EVEN THOUGH IT'S NIGHT AGAIN)
FLOP
CLICK
CREAK
SLAP
SILENCE
WORK
CRAP
I GOTTA HURRY...
?!
WHAT?

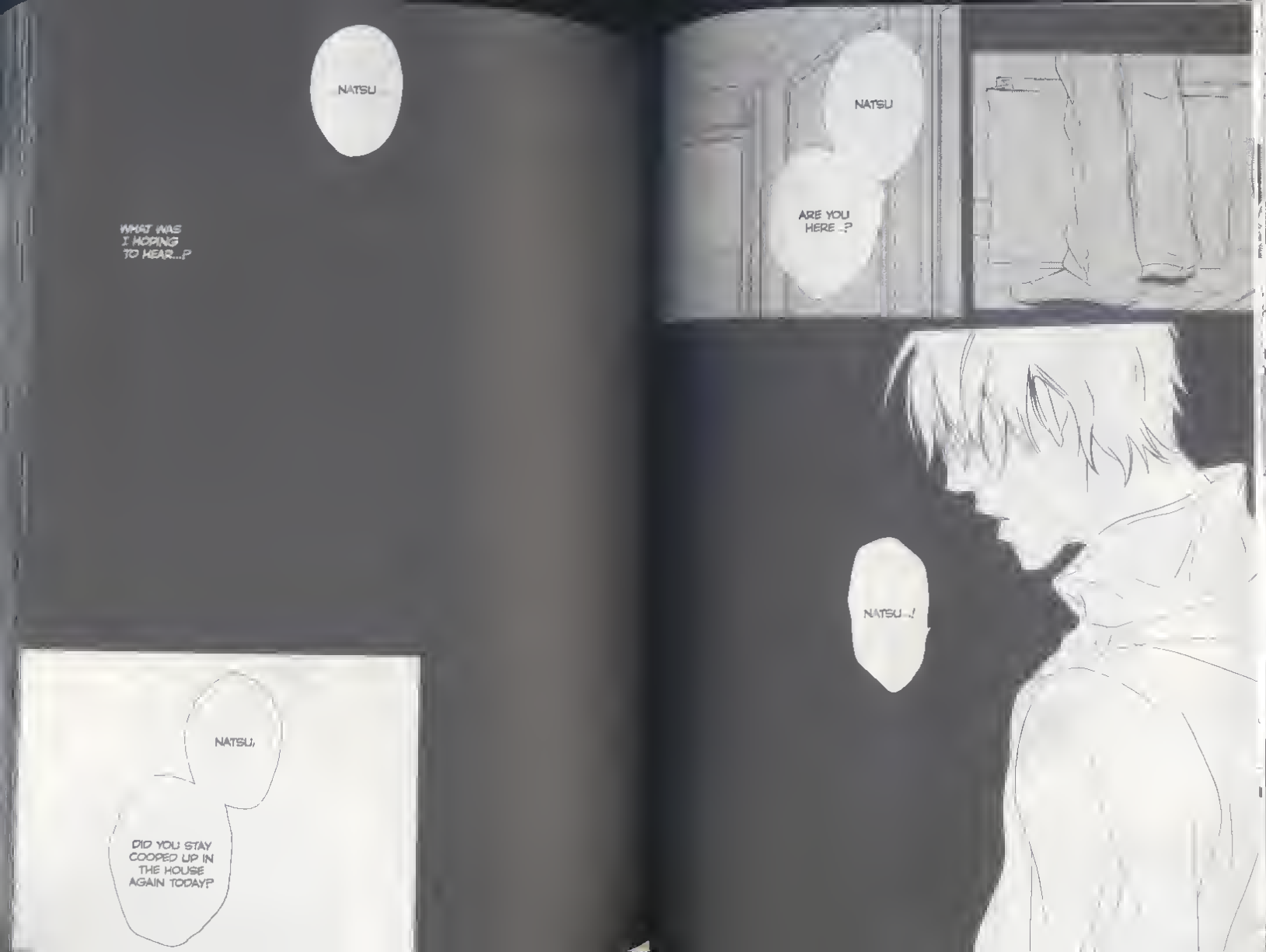
I'M HOME!
ガチャン JINGLE
ガチャガチャ CREAK
HUH?
NATSU, SHOULDN'T YOU BE AT WORK?
WORK? I-TOOK-TODAY-OFF
ガーン! GAH!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
AND YOU DIDN'T LEAVE A KEY!
I COULDN'T LEAVE!
IT'S ON THE PILLOW!
I LEPT A KEY!
I DID!
THINKING
ARGH!
—ERE'S NATSU?
GOOD EVENING
OH, MAMORU-KUN
HUH?
HE'S TAKEN TODAY OFF "UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES" OR SOMETHING
DIDN'T YOU HEAR?
BA-DUM!
... ...
HE'S GOING PRETTY FAR TO AVOID ME— IS HE REALLY THAT MAD AT ME?! WAS I THAT AWFUL TO HIM..?


HMMM.
WELL, I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT WORK.
BUT THESE NAILS! I CAN'T GET IT OFF WITHOUT PAINT THINNER
I COULDN'T GO TO WORK LIKE THIS, IT'D BE TOO EMBARRASSING
THAT WOULDN'T WORK ANYWAY
BESIDES,
YOU SHOULD LEAVE IT ON!
IT'S CUTE.
YOU SHOULDN'T WASTE IT
THAT ONE
THAT'S LATEX!
LIKE THAT WOULD WORK!
NO!
I'M NOT IN SOME ROCK BAND!
FINE, HERE'S THE REMOVER
THEY'RE SO CUTE TOO
THAT'S IT?!
I TRIED THAT AND IT DIDN'T WORK
WHICH ONE?
RUB RUB
AH, HERE IT IS
THE KEY
ARE YOU BLIND?
FUTON
NO WAY!
REALLY?!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING!
WHEN?
I WAS ASLEEP
YOU COULD HAVE LEFT WITHOUT LOCKING UP
THERE'S NOTHING GOOD IN HERE ANYWAY
HMPH.
AS IF THEY'D MAKE IT OUT OF HERE ALIVE
COME ON, HIME
WHAT GIRL TALKS LIKE THAT?
THERE ARE DANGEROUS PEOPLE AROUND, YOU KNOW
LIKE STALKERS.
HE'S DRIVING ME IN SOME WAYS.
AGAIN, WHAT GIRL TALKS LIKE THAT ? MURDER'S A CRIME, YOU KNOW!

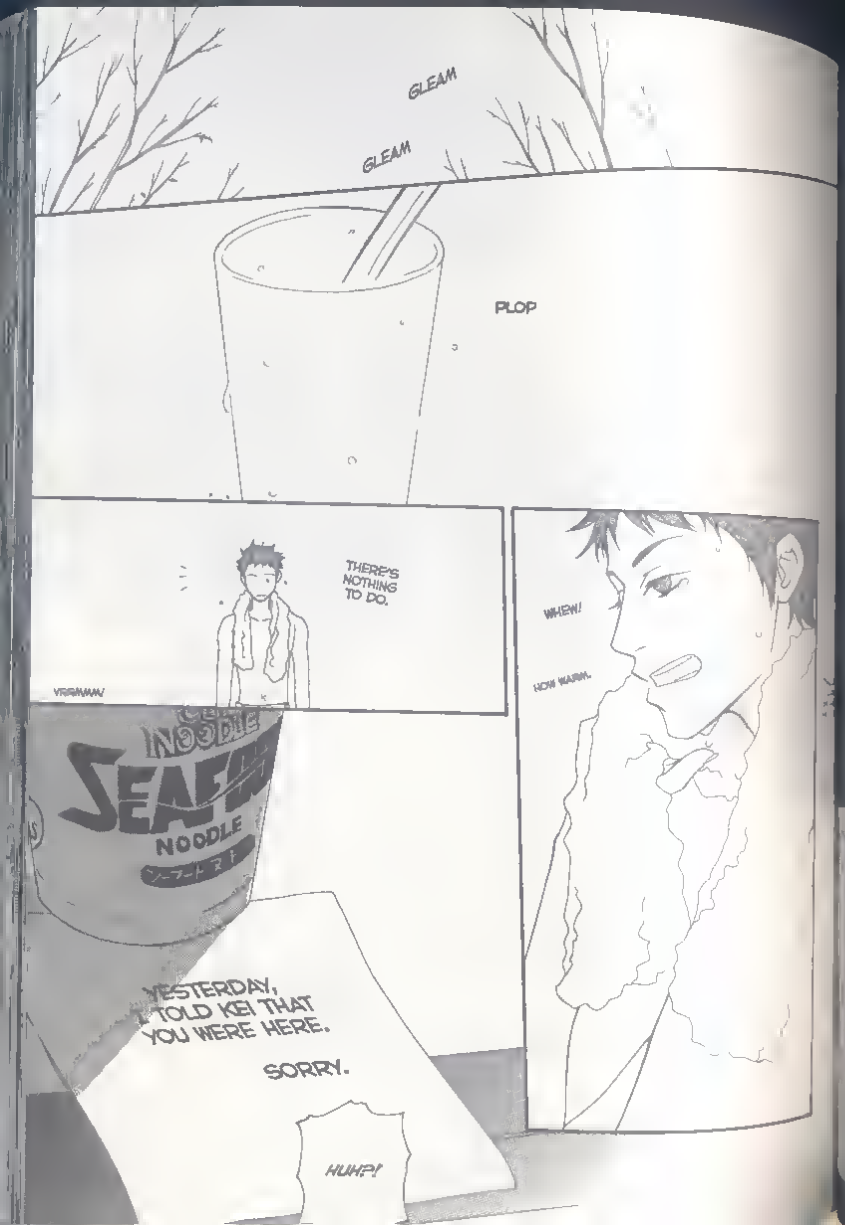
I FORGOT
SO WHAT ABOUT IT?
IT MUST BE COMING UP SOON
BY THE WAY, DID YOU SEE MICHIO-SAN'S INVITATION?
YEAH
FOR HIS BIRTHDAY?
NO, I HAVEN'T
<- HASN'T CHECKED HIS MAIL
IT SAYS TO COME DRESSED "SEMI-FORMAL"
IT'S THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, BUT I ONLY GOT THE INVITE YESTERDAY
WHAT TO WEAR HMM..
WHO HAS MONEY RIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS ANYWAY?!
HUH?
THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW?
FORMAL?!
MANORU,
WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT A SUIT?
WHAT WILL I DO
PAT
MANORU!
I HEARD YOU GOT DUMPED ?
YOU'RE CRUEL.
...WHO'S SPREADING RUMORS LIKE THAT...?
I'M TOO SCARED TO SAY IT
IT'S A SECRET.

MAMORU AND NATSU ARE FIGHTING.
OH, I ALREADY KNOW THAT
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE.
WHAT'S THAT MEAN? U
LEAN
WELL THEN I'LL TELL YOU
SINCE YOU'RE DIGGING.
SHE GOT ME.
HAVING TOO MUCH FUN.
HEY DON'T BE RUDE
NO, IT'S NOT!
IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?
HUH?!
MAMORU'S IN TROUBLE.
NATSU'S AT MY PLACE RIGHT NOW
HE'S HIDING OUT
KEI!
HIME...
KNOCK
KNOCK
SCRAPE
WHEW, IT'S COLD
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
I THINK.
NOT REALLY, BUT GO AHEAD
SINCE YOU'RE SO EAGER TO SAW IT
HEE HEE HEE.
KEI,
I'VE GOT SOME GREAT INFO. YOU WANT IT?
HOW THE RUMOR STARTED.


← STILL WEARING STORE CLOTHES
START
OH, THE SCARF?
LOVELY COLOR, ISN'T IT?
I'M HOME!
ガチャ
CREAK
トサッ
THUMP
EXCUSE ME, BUT I'LL TAKE THIS
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THAT'LL BE
ACTUALLY, I'D LIKE IT GIFT WRAPPED, TOO
I NEED BETTER CLOTHES
MUST BE A COLD
SNIFFLE
ハクション
ACHOO!
WELCOME!
PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AROUND
TRYING ON


NATSU
WHAT WAS I HOPING TO HEAR...?
NATSU,
DID YOU STAY COOPED UP IN THE HOUSE AGAIN TODAY?
NATSU
ARE YOU HERE ..?
NATSU...!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HOW CAN YOU MAKE UP PROPERLY IF YOU'RE GONNA BE THAT STUBBORN?
WHAT I REALLY WANT TO ASK IS, IF YOU'RE NOT MAKING UP WITH MAMORU YET...
WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME TO CAMPUS TOMORROW?
WELL...
MAYBE I'LL SEE HIM...
TH-THUMP
YOU'RE A MAN, AREN'T YOU?
IT WAS YOUR FAULT FOR REJECTING HIM
WHA...?!
GASP
AM I IN THE WAY HERE?
YOU DON'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND, DO YOU?
I'M KIND OF SLOW WHEN IT COMES TO THOSE THINGS.
I WASN'T "COOPED UP" I JUST DIDN'T LEAVE, OKAY?!
IT'S WINTER OUT THERE.
AND HERE I WAS THINKING YOU MIGHT BE GONE WHEN I GOT BACK.
SNORT
YOU REALLY ARE FUNNY, NATSU
UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T HAVE ANY BOYFRIENDS THAT I'D CALL OVER
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
CALLING YOURSELF SLOW, EH?
HA HA HA!


GLEAM
GLEAM
PLOP
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO.
WHEW!
HOW WARM.
INSTANT NOODLE
SEAFOOD
NOODLE
YESTERDAY, I TOLD KEI THAT YOU WERE HERE.
SORRY.
HUH?!

IT'S NOT THAT I REJECTED HIM!
HMM?
WELL, YOUR FAULT FOR BEING STUBBORN, THEN
HUH?!
WHAT A DISASTER...
SIGH...
TEASING HIM
GAHH

BLINK
MORNING ALREADY ?
IT'S AFTERNOON
ばさっ
ゴソ ROLL
GOOD-NIGHT
MMM.
WOOSH
ゴソ ROLL
プ RING
プルルル RING
プルルル

SHE GOT ME.
THAT DAMN HIME

I KNOW THIS IS SHORT NOTICE, BUT DO YOU WANT TO GO DO KARAOKE OR SOMETHING?
I JUST WOKE UP
GRRR.
KARAOKE?
GRR!
YOU'VE JUST BEEN SO DOWN LATELY
PERFECT TIMING, THEN.
LET'S SING THE STRESS OUT OF YOU!
I'LL STILL BE DEPRESSED.
OH, REALLY?
GREAT, MEET YOU THERE AT 11
.OKAY
I'LL GO
AT LONG LAST
ガバッ
JUMP
ブルルル
RING
ズ
SLIP
ガチャ
RING
ブルルル
RING
ブルルル
RING
ガタ
THUD
ゴン
WHACK
OW...
ブルルル
RING
NATSU?!
HUH?! ER, NO

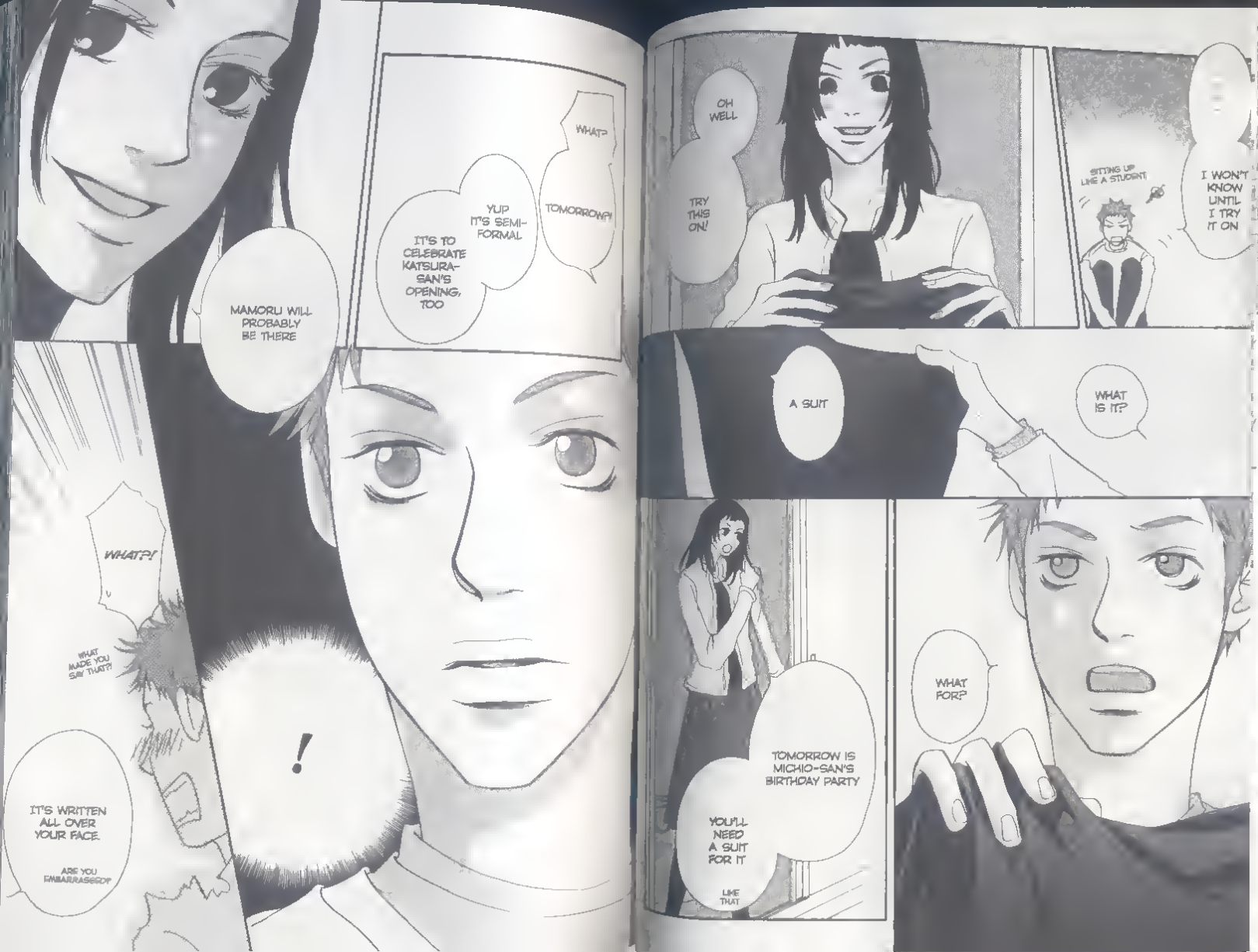
プルルル RING
プルルル RING
プルルル RING
プルルル RING
プルルル RING
プルルル RING
カチャ CLICK
AH
MAMORU...?
I'M NOT IN RIGHT NOW, SO LEAVE...
カチャ
SLAM
!!!
GLEAM
GLEAM
VERY PEACEFUL...
—
—
1
2
4
5
7

UGH
YO!
HELLO, THE XX PRESS HERE!
GRIN
CHEER
WHITER THAN EVER!
TOP NOTCH
PLEASE TRY SOME OF THESE SAMPLES
THUMP
GRIT
ACTUALLY,
I DON'T LIVE HERE!
ER.
HUH?
BYE!
UM.
I THINK WE'RE FINE HERE...
THERE'S BEER TICKETS TO FANTASY LAND
OH, WELL WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE?
?

TH-THUMP
C-COMING!

HAAH.
WHAT AM I DOING...?

SORRY
OH, YOU ARE HERE
I WAS NAPPING
GOOD MORNING
SCRATCH SCRATCH
WHAT TIME IS IT?
WHY WERE THE LIGHTS OFF?
IT WAS DARK IN HERE.
HAAH!
NATSU?
GUCK
OH!
WELCOME BACK
SLIDE
HEY! GIVE ME BACK MY DETERGENT SAMPLE!
POUND
POUND
WERE YOU BUSY...?
I'M SORRY
MUTTER
WHAT?!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
WHAT SIZE CLOTHING DO YOU WEAR?
RUSTLE
I WASN'T?
IT'S OKAY, REALLY
WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?!
I WASN'T!
HONESTLY
I'M HOME!
NATSU?


MAMORU WILL PROBABLY BE THERE
IT'S TO CELEBRATE KATSURA-SAN'S OPENING, TOO
YUP IT'S SEMI-FORMAL
TOMORROW?!
WHAT?
!
WHAT?!
WHAT MADE YOU SAY THAT?!
IT'S WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE.
ARE YOU EMBARRASSED?
OH WELL
TRY THIS ON!
I WON'T KNOW UNTIL I TRY IT ON
SITTING UP LIKE A STUDENT
A SUIT
WHAT IS IT?
TOMORROW IS MICHIO-SAN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY
YOU'LL NEED A SUIT FOR IT
LIKE THAT
WHAT FOR?

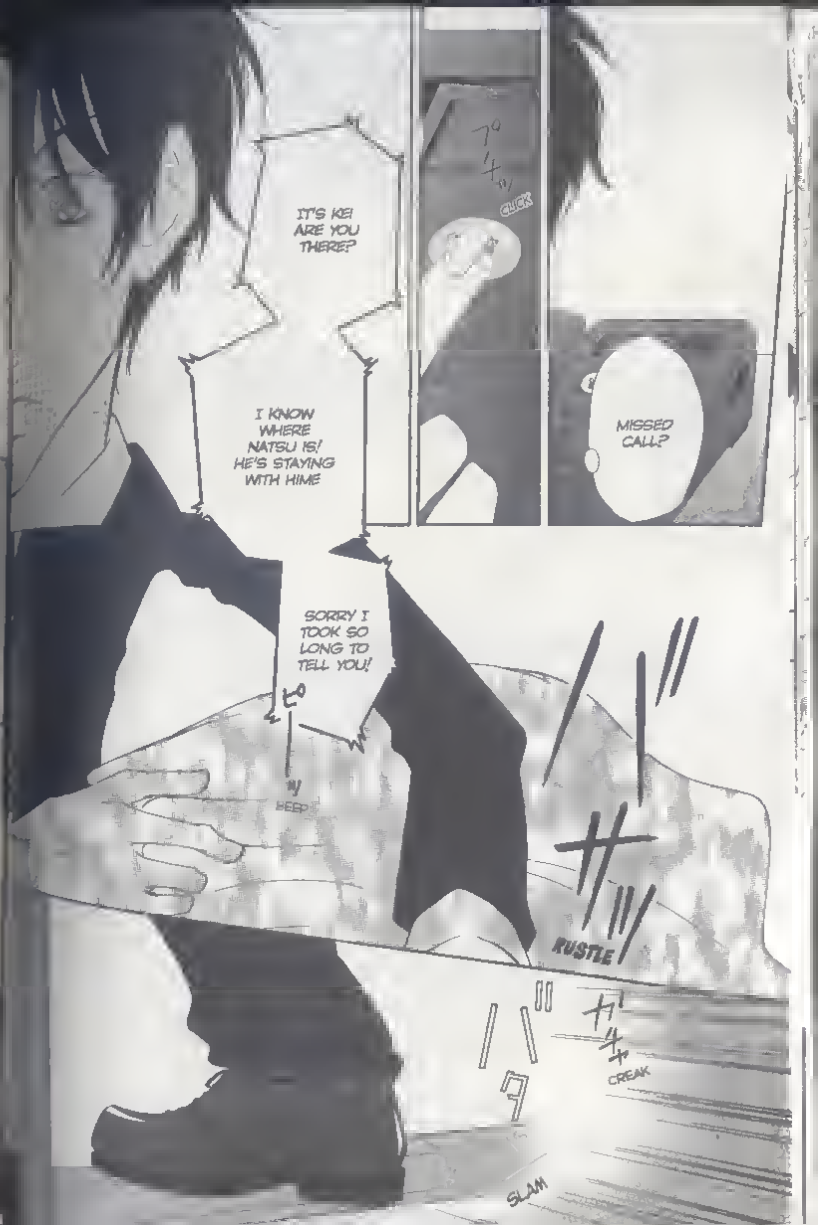
JINGLE
ガチャ
CREAK
ガタッ
THUMP
I FEEL SICK...
I DRANK TOO MUCH.
ガ"タ"タ"
STOMP STOMP
にっ
GRIN
"I WANT TO SEE MAMORU," THAT IS

がばっ
JUMP
.MICHIO'S.
PARTY...
CRAP --
HEY,
WHAT'S WITH THE FANTASY LAND TICKETS?
T. F. L.

FLOP
MISSED CALL

MEAT BUNS!
BUT WE'RE ABOUT TO GO OUT...
THERE'S STILL TIME FOR ME TO BUY SOME
YOU WANT ANYTHING?
THEY CAME WITH THE DETERGENT SAMPLES
SWEAT
SWEAT
OH, WE'RE OUT OF TEA...
THAT NEWSPAPER GUY AGAIN?!
HE JUST DOESN'T GIVE UP!
POP
TEA CONTAINER

HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH

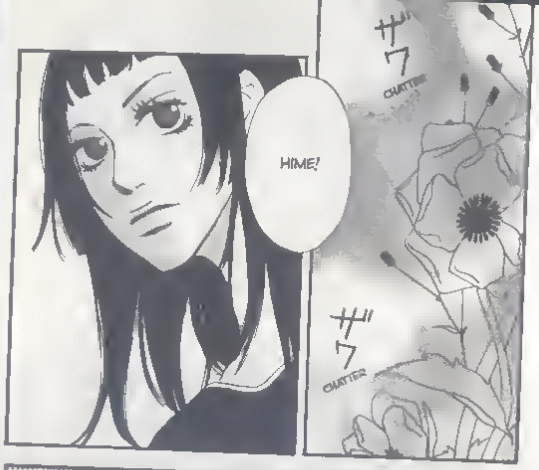

IT'S KEI ARE YOU THERE?
I KNOW WHERE NATSU IS! HE'S STAYING WITH HIME
CLICK
MISSED CALL?
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG TO TELL YOU!
BEEP
RUSTLE
CREAK
SLAM

GRIN
TELL HIM THERE'S SOMETHING I FORGOT TO BUY, SO I'LL BE A LITTLE LATE
!
HIME
HIME !
HAAH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, STANDING IN FRONT OF MY DOOR?
HAAH
WHOA!
SHOVE
GIVE THIS TO NATSU

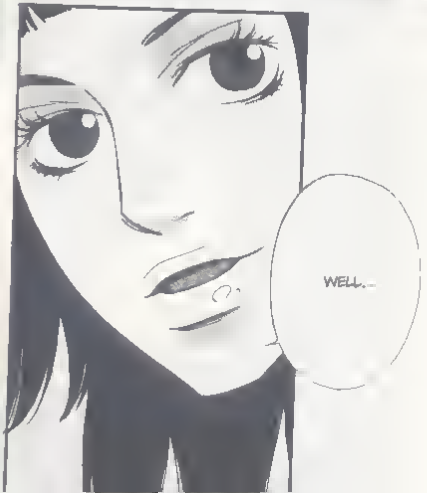
TURN
TAP
TAP
OH!
RUSTLE
Family Mart
HIME
I'M GIVING THIS TO YOU
NOW GO IN BEFORE THE MEAT BUNS GET COLD
THANK YOU

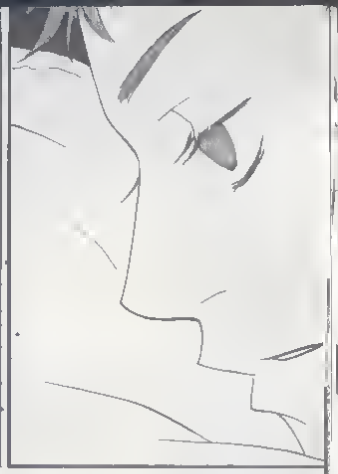
NATSU...
I'M SORRY

コンコン
KNOCK
コンコン
KNOCK
OH,
COMING!
COLD OUT THERE, ISN'T IT? YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME GO
ガチャ
CREAK
JUMP
WHA...


HIME!
CHATTER
CHATTER

WHAT HAPPENED TO NATSU AND MAMORU?


WELL...



I'M SORRY, TOO...

RIGHT ABOUT NOW, THEY OUGHT TO BE IN CHIBA, WATCHING THE FIREWORKS

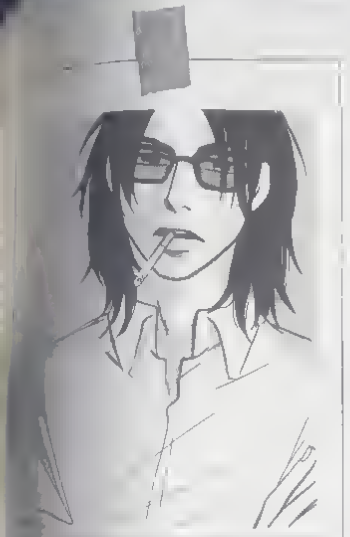
THEY SAY THAT WEARING THE COLOR RED WARMS YOU UP, SO I GOT YOU A RED SCARF
WOW, IT'S *REALLY* WARM
OH.?
HEY,
A SCARF!
GREAT TIMING!
I WONDER WHAT TIME IT IS?
IT SURE IS COLD OUT
MAMORU

NATSU!
WHAT'S THIS?
AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT
OPEN IT

OW!
キック
KICK!
HIYAH!
DON'T BLUSH!
BOOM

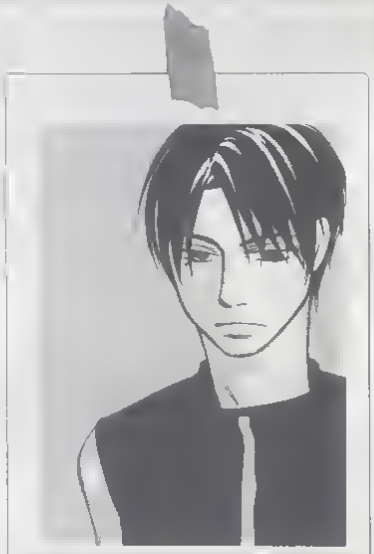
THANK YOU.
I LOVE IT

THIS IS NOT LOVE



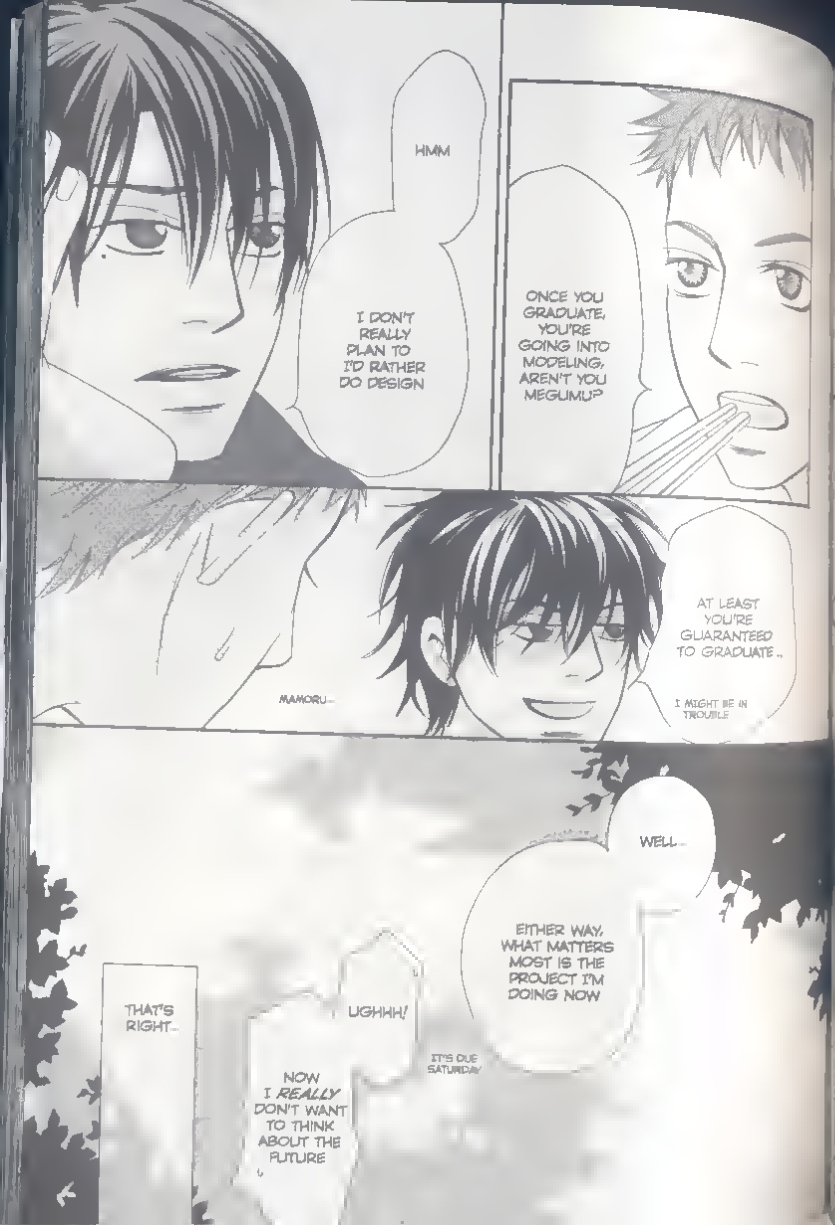
MICHIO

- NAME: MICHIO YASUKAWA
- BIRTHDAY: DECEMBER 22ND
- AGE: 24
- [illegible] TYPE A
- [illegible] 183
- [illegible]S IN THE FILM DEPARTMENT
- [illegible] SOME DJ WORK ON THE SIDE AS A HOBBY
- YOUNGEST OF THREE SIBLINGS
- HIS PARENTS WORK AT A HOSPITAL

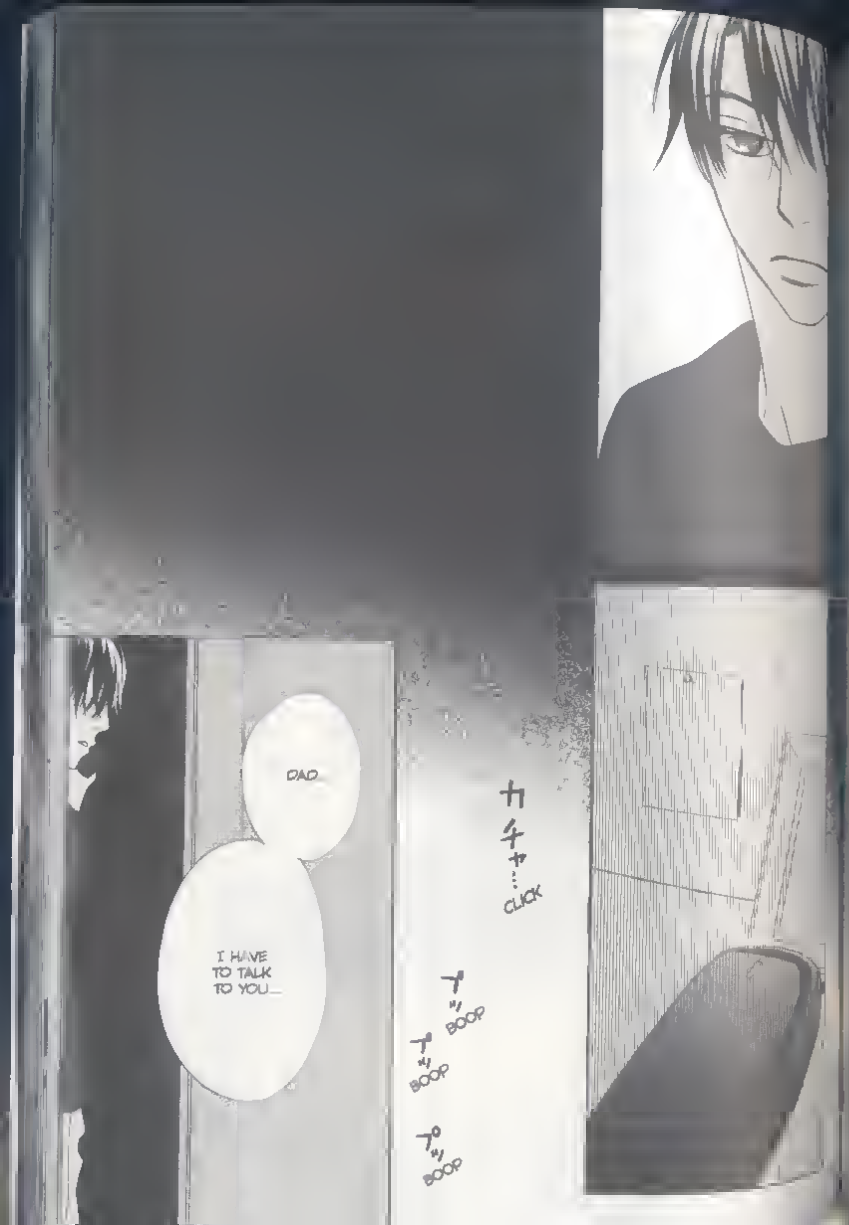


KEI

- NAME: MEGUMU YAGUCHI
- BIRTHDAY: MARCH 16TH
- AGE 20
- BLOOD TYPE A
- HEIGHT 183 CM
- A THIRD YEAR STUDENT OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN, SPECIALIZING IN INTERIOR DESIGN
- WORKS PART TIME AS A MODEL
- CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF NATSU

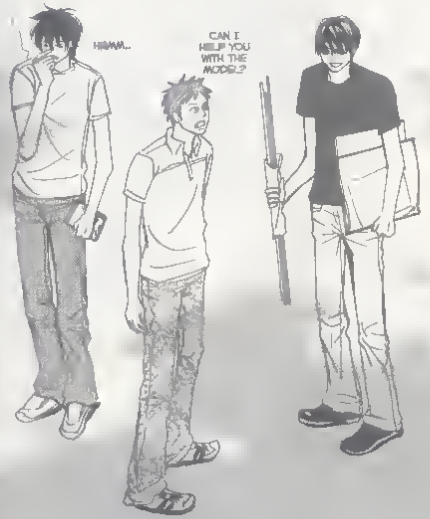

HMM
I DON'T REALLY PLAN TO I'D RATHER DO DESIGN
ONCE YOU GRADUATE, YOU'RE GOING INTO MODELING, AREN'T YOU MEGUMU?
AT LEAST YOU'RE GUARANTEED TO GRADUATE..
I MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE
MAMORU...
WELL...
EITHER WAY, WHAT MATTERS MOST IS THE PROJECT I'M DOING NOW
IT'S DUE SATURDAY
UGHHH!
NOW I *REALLY* DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE
THAT'S RIGHT...

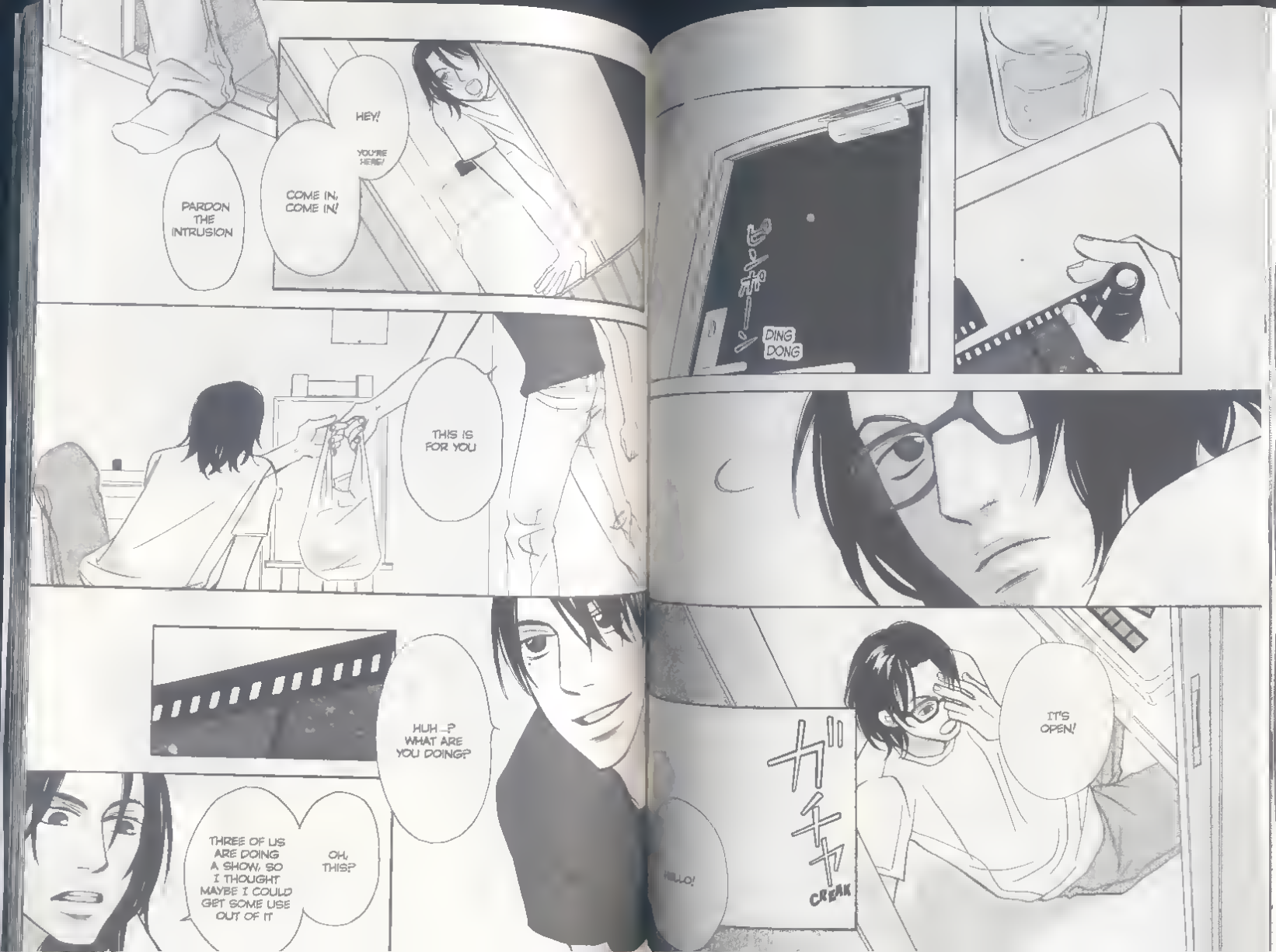
I HEARD THAT HEI-SAN FOUND A JOB
WOW
WHAT KIND?
WASN'T IT A DESIGN JOB FOR A PRINTING COMPANY?
YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT
GRAPHIC DESIGNER? EDITORIAL DESIGNER?
MUNCH
MUNCH
HMM?
MAN, A CAREER
I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT
UGH!
HA HA HA!

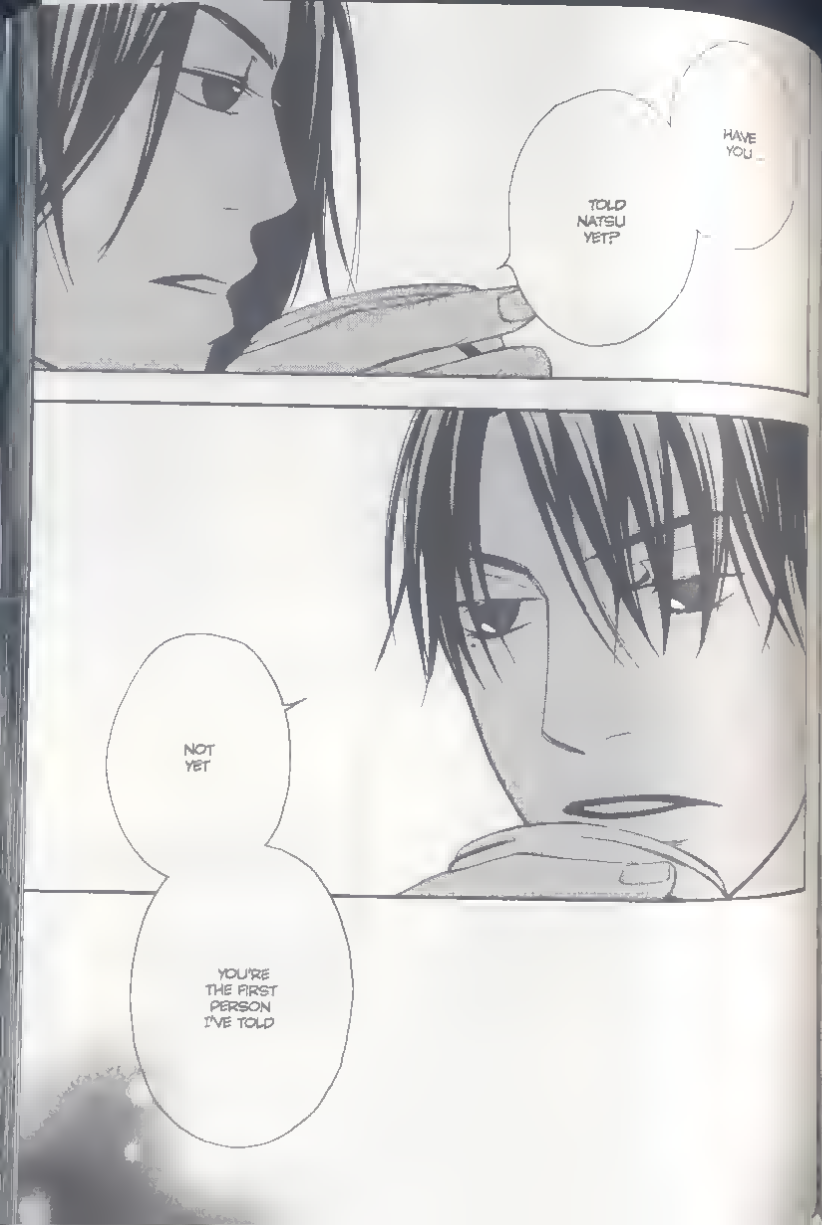


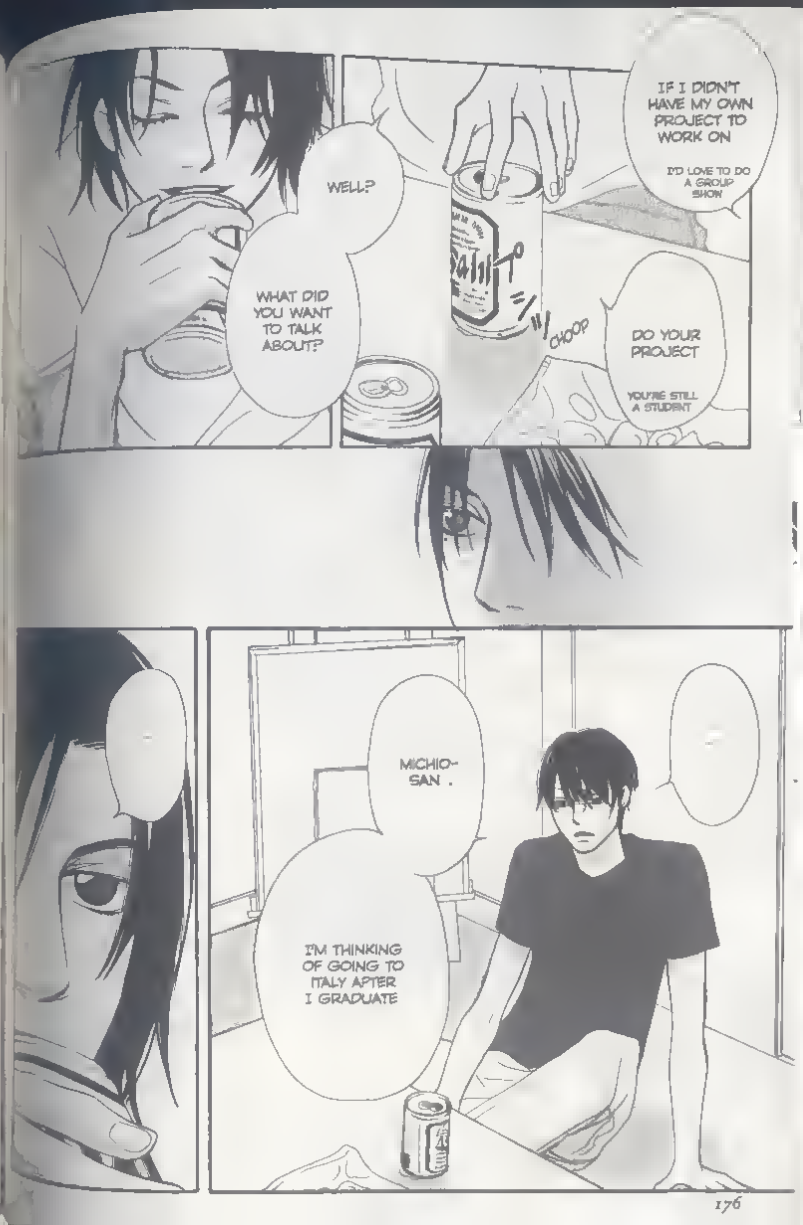
I CAN'T EXPECT THIS RELATIONSHIP TO LAST OUR WHOLE LIVES.

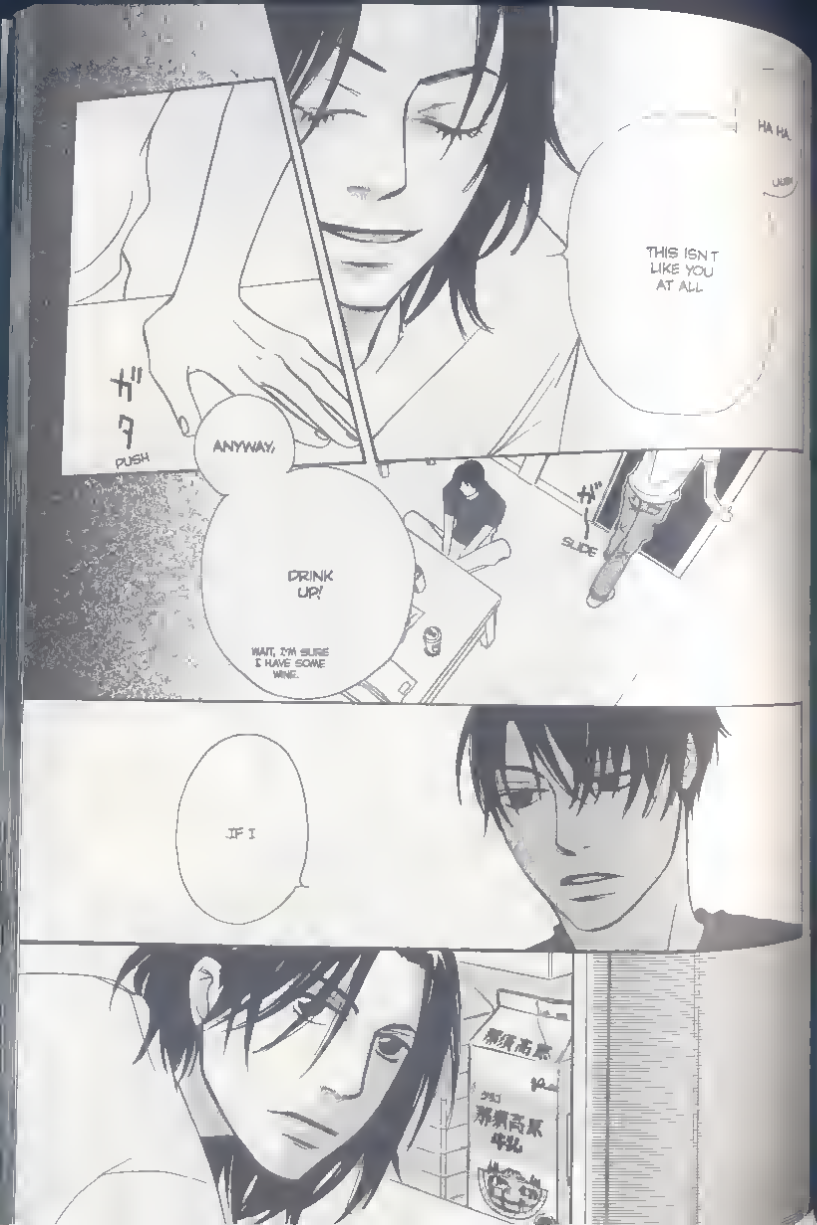
I'M SURE WE CAN'T CONTINUE LIKE THIS FOREVER.

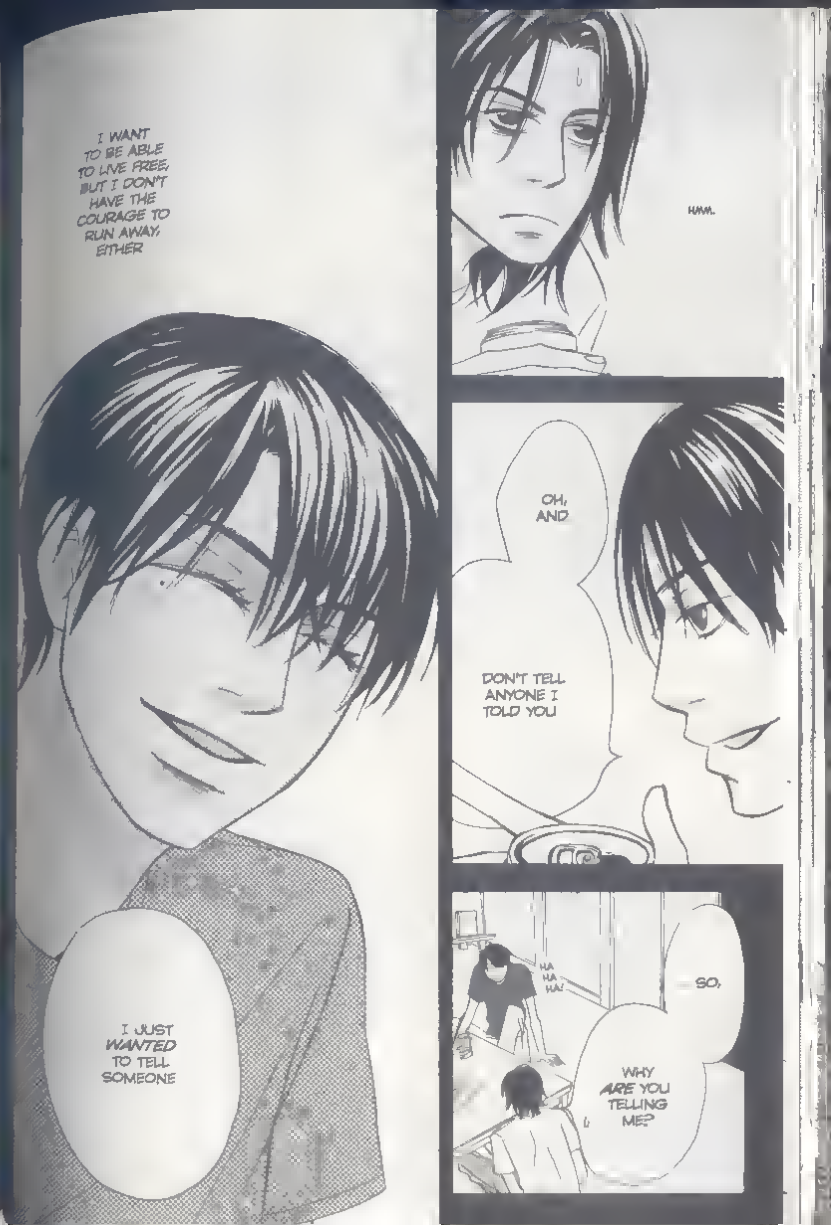



DING DONG
CREAK
HELLO!
IT'S OPEN!
HUH -? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH, THIS?
THREE OF US ARE DOING A SHOW, SO I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD GET SOME USE OUT OF IT
THIS IS FOR YOU
HEY!
YOU'RE HERE!
COME IN, COME IN!
PARDON THE INTRUSION


HAVE YOU ... TOLD NATSU YET?
NOT YET
YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE TOLD


WELL?
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
IF I DIDN'T HAVE MY OWN PROJECT TO WORK ON
I'D LOVE TO DO A GROUP SHOW
CHOOP
DO YOUR PROJECT
YOU'RE STILL A STUDENT
MICHIO-SAN .
I'M THINKING OF GOING TO ITALY AFTER I GRADUATE


HA HA
UUH
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU AT ALL
ガラ
PUSH
ANYWAY,
DRINK UP!
WAIT, I'M SURE I HAVE SOME WINE.
SLIDE
IF I


I WANT TO BE ABLE TO LIVE FREE, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO RUN AWAY, EITHER
I JUST WANTED TO TELL SOMEONE
HMM.
OH, AND
DON'T TELL ANYONE I TOLD YOU
HA HA HA!
SO,
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME?

SO GET A GIRLFRIEND
YEAH...
MICHIO-SAN...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND LOVE...
...NOT THAT IT WOULD LAST...
I WANT SOMEONE TO BE KIND TO ME, BUT I CAN'T BE KIND MYSELF
KEI
TAP
WELL, YOU ARE MORE OF AN ADULT THAN THE REST OF US
WHEN I STARTED THINKING ABOUT THAT, I JUST HAD TO TALK TO SOMEONE...
IF I JUST LEFT WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, COULD HE JUST FORGET ME..?
EVEN IF HE DID, WHAT ABOUT MY FEELINGS...?

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO CRY STOP IT.
YOU'RE OVER-THINKING THINGS
THUMP

KEI, HAVE YOU EVER DONE IT WITH ANOTHER GUY?

MICHIO-SAN. DO I REALLY SEEM THAT DANGEROUS?

THIS CAN'T BE LOVE..

BUT I REALLY THINK...

...JUST, I THOUGHT MAYBE BY LIVING WITH THIS AMBIGUITY DAY BY DAY, I MIGHT FIND AN ANSWER..

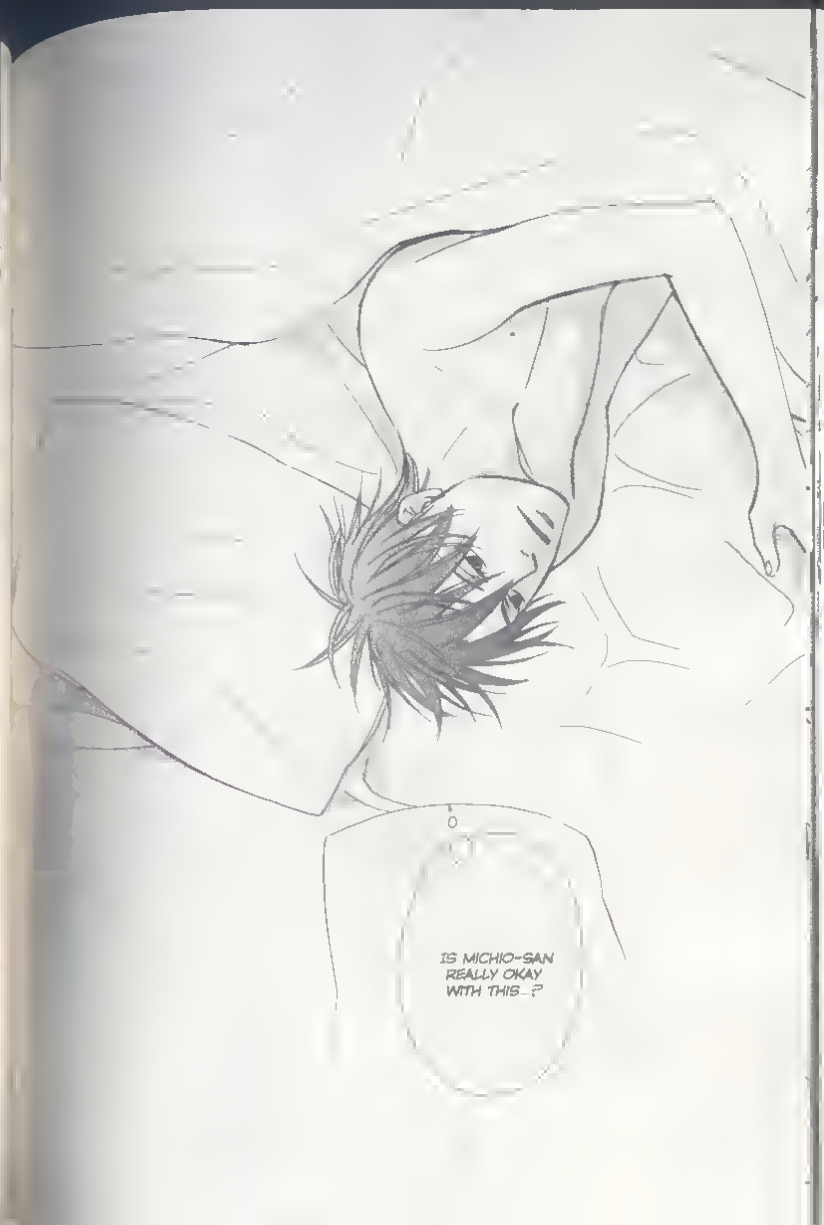
IT'S NOT THAT I'M SATISFIED WITH THIS.

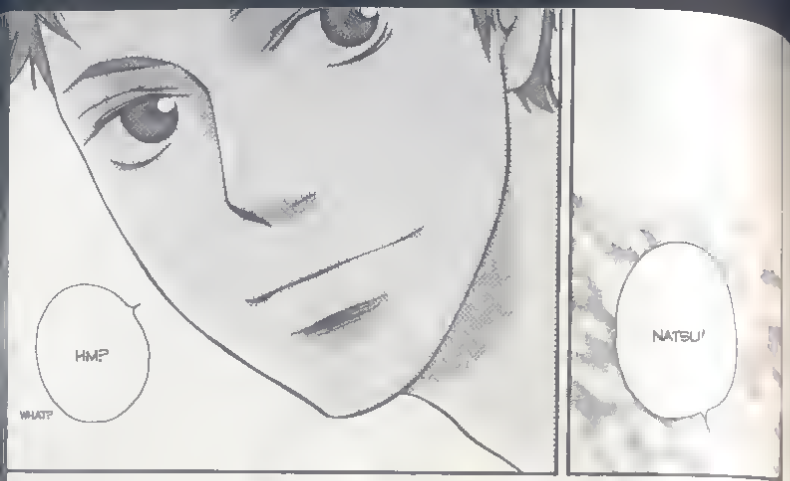
IT'S ALL RIGHT TO BE A LITTLE SELFISH

MMN...
I'M FINE...
SLAP
HAAH...
DO YOU WANT TO STOP?
HAAH...
I'M FINE

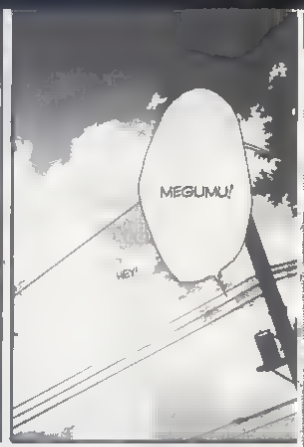
OKAY
SHUT
FLOP
LEAN
-WHAT AM I DOING ?
RUSTLE
TWITCH
TWITCH
FLICK
I'LL LEAVE A KEY, SO MAKE SURE TO LOCK UP IF YOU LEAVE
I HAVE TO GO, BUT HOW ARE YOU DOING?
OH, KE! YOU'RE AWAKE

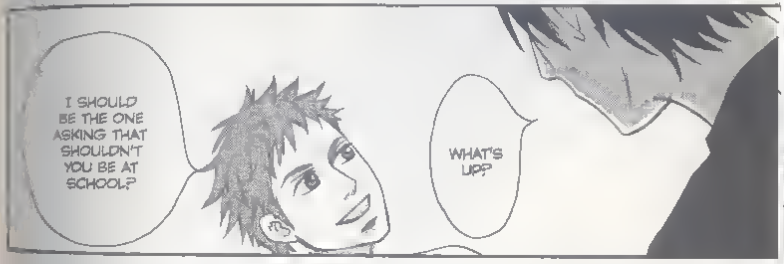
SHUT
JINGLE
WHAT SHOULD I DO..?
IN THE END, ALL I CAME TO REALIZE...
...IS THAT THESE FEELINGS ARE GETTING ME NOWHERE

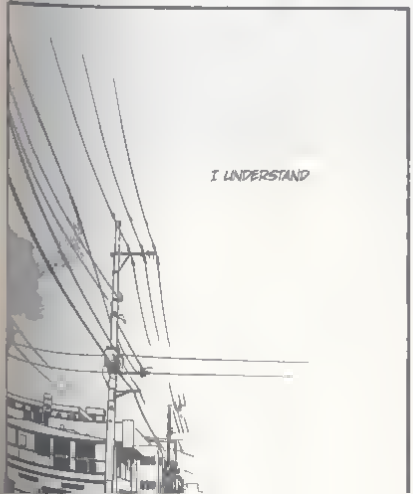

IS MICHIO-SAN REALLY OKAY WITH THIS...?



I UNDERSTAND







I NAVE ONLY NATSU...

NATSU IS
THE ONLY ONE
I REALLY LOVE

Party

http://party.web.i-

THIS IS NOT LOVE ● END

HELLO, AND TO THOSE FIRST TIME READERS, PLEASED TO MEET YOU. I'M *TATSUMI KAIYA*. THANK YOU FOR READING "PARTY." THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A REVIVAL OF THE OLD MANGA "LET'S KISS, LET'S HOLD HANDS," BUT WHEN I PULLED OUT THE OLD MANUSCRIPT, I LIKED IT TOO MUCH TO MAKE ANY REAL CHANGES... A FEW THINGS WERE ADDED HERE AND THERE THAT WEREN'T PUBLISHED ORIGINALLY, BUT I DIDN'T MAKE ANY ACTUAL CHANGE. I HOPE YOU ENJOYED IT AS IT WAS...

I STARTED THE "PARTY" SERIES IN 1995, SO THE CHARACTERS HAVE BEEN WITH ME FOR A LONG TIME, AND I HAVE A LOT OF LOVE FOR THEM. I OFTEN THINK THAT IF I HAVE THE CHANCE, I WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK AND KEEP DOING IT, SO I HOPE YOU CAN BE PATIENT WITH ME.

LASTLY, TO THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED THIS BOOK ALONG, AND TO ALL MY READERS WHO HAVE READ THIS FAR, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SPRING, 2006
TATSUMI KAIYA